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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Diplomat' Reveals List of Rabin 'Demands'

PM1712121093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Dec 93 pp 1, 4

['Ali al-Salih report: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Reveals Rabin's Demands List"]

[Excerpts] London, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has stressed the importance of Jerusalem city to the Palestinians. He said that "As far as we are concerned, Jerusalem is a fundamental question at all levels, political, religious, and economic." He added: "Rabin is entitled to talk about his Jerusalem and we are entitled to talk about our Jerusalem." 'Arafat warned Israel against trying to marginalize the newborn Palestinian autonomy, saying that he still aspires to the establishment of a unified Palestine. [passage omitted]

In Amman, Western diplomatic sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the demands which Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin submitted to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat during their closed meeting in Cairo. The demands, which came in the context of the Israeli view of how to begin to implement the Palestinian [-Israeli] agreement, included the following:

1. To reveal all Palestinian arms' hideouts in Israel, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank. To reveal the names of those who are in charge of them, especially in Jericho and Khan Yunis, and also how they are smuggled into these areas and the names of the Palestinian organizations involved.
2. To announce the disbandment of all security and military organs belonging to Fatah, declaring it an unarmed political movement.
3. To release Mossad agent 'Adnan Yasin and hand him over to a European state to be agreed on, in return for the release of a number of prominent Palestinian prisoners.
4. Not to demand Palestinian control of the crossings and bridges.
5. To agree to the continuation of the military activities of the Israeli forces and Israeli security forces in the autonomy area.
6. To agree to coordination between the Palestinian police command and the Israeli security services over all security matters.
7. To reveal the names of those responsible for 14 operations carried out by Fatah in Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip in which Israelis were killed and whose perpetrators have still not been arrested.

The diplomat pointed out to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Rabin asked 'Arafat not to enter the Jericho area and Gaza yet, because security conditions there still do not allow that.

The diplomat also said that Rabin revealed to 'Arafat numerous security plots set up by activists in Hamas, the Islamic Jihad movement, and some of the military Fatah militias opposed to the agreement to assassinate him and the Palestinian leadership. The Western diplomat added that 'Arafat, who was annoyed by Rabin's demands, promised to study them and inform Rabin of the outcome when they meet again. [passage omitted]

Contacts Toward Rabin-'Arafat Summit Continue

TA1712113493 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Dec 93 p 2

[Report from Paris by Gid'on Kouts]

[Excerpts] Contacts were held yesterday in Paris between [Israeli] Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, PLO representative Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Qurayi], and Norwegian mediator Terje Rod Larsen—the team that conducted the Oslo talks—in a bid to settle the disagreements between Israel and the PLO, particularly with regard to the border crossings.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was briefed about the progress made in the contacts, and he phoned Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to update him. Phone calls were also placed to Tunis and to Dublin, the capital of Ireland, where 'Arafat was staying at the time. Peres has confirmed he was involved in the current contacts but would not specify in which way. According to him, the purpose of the contacts is to reach an agreement that will make a meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat possible at the end of next week. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 17 December carries a report attributed to Gid'on Kouts, adding that the Israeli-PLO contacts continued "this morning" and that "a January was mentioned as the date for a new meeting and the beginning of the implementation of the agreement"] Nevertheless, rumors pervaded in the Israeli capital about an attempt to set up a meeting between Peres and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] or [illegible] [passage omitted]

The meetings between Savir and Abu-al-'Ala' were held at the World Bank offices, among other places, where the donor countries to the Palestinians were holding their sessions. [passage omitted]

'Some Progress' Seen at Economic Talks in Paris

TA1712054893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] The latest round of Israeli-PLO economic talks ended in Paris yesterday. An Israeli delegation spokesman said some progress had been made. The talks are expected to resume at the beginning of next month.

PLO-Israeli Negotiations Continue in al-'Arish

Services in Gaza Still Undecided

NC1612121093 Paris AFP in English 1235 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, Dec 16 AFP—The PLO and Israel on Thursday [15 December] tried to overcome "the only

major obstacle" blocking a deal on transferring civilian powers to the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho, a top PLO negotiator said.

The two were trying to determine who will provide water, electricity and road maintenance for Jewish settlers, said Jamil al-Tarifi, head of the civilian talks in the Egyptian Sinai town of al-'Arish.

Tarifi, speaking by telephone from al-'Arish, described the services issue as the "only major obstacle blocking the talks" on transferring powers, which were to adjourn Thursday morning and resume next week.

The civilian talks resumed on Wednesday, two days after Israel and the PLO missed a deadline for implementing autonomy, largely over the thornier issues of an Israeli army withdrawal and security for settlers.

The two sides in al-'Arish also discussed an Israeli proposal on Wednesday to set up a coordinating committee on civilian affairs once self-rule takes effect, he said.

A reluctant Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO chief, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin failed Sunday in Cairo to reach an agreement for implementing Palestinian autonomy by Monday's deadline.

They decided that committees on transferring powers and on economic aspects of autonomy would resume in al-'Arish and Paris, but set no date for resuming talks on an Israeli withdrawal—key to implementing autonomy.

Further on al-'Arish Talks

NC1612152093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1412 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Al-'Arish, 16 Dec (MENA)—The subcommittee on Gaza and Jericho self-rule held a meeting in al-'Arish today to further discuss the transfer of power from the Israelis to the Palestinian administration.

Palestinian delegate Muhammad Husayn 'Abd-al-Qadir said that 38 items relating to various issues were discussed, but no agreement was reached.

He said the two sides proposed projects in light of what the subcommittee received from the main negotiating committees in Cairo and Paris.

He said the Israelis insisted on placing several obstacles in the way of the negotiations. They believe, he explained, that the settlements within the autonomous region need to be linked with the public services, such as electricity, telephones, and water, inside the State of Israel.

Palestinian delegate Khalid 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Qidrah said that issues related to health, education, taxation, tourism, and social development were discussed.

He said there is also a subcommittee to discuss transportation in Gaza namely, car licensing, how cars can enter the autonomous regions, and navigation at Gaza port.

Committee Ends Session

NC1612220293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—The meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli civilian committee on the transfer of self-rule powers to the Palestinians ended in al-'Arish tonight. The committee will resume its meetings early next week to continue discussing its agenda.

The committee is discussing the means of transferring the authorities of various administrations and measures to hand over civilian power from the Israeli side to the Palestinian self-rule authorities as part of the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First accord.

Lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi heads the Palestinian side of the committee, and the Israeli side is led by Gadi Zohar, head of the military authority in the West Bank.

Israeli Source: 'No Chance' for Quick Agreement

TA1612172993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] A senior source in the Israeli delegation for talks with the Palestinians says the positions presented by 'Arafat during his meeting with the prime minister in Cairo were tougher than those presented by the Palestinian delegation in the negotiations. The source noted that this was an unpleasant surprise. He went on to assess that there is no chance of reaching a signed agreement within 10 to 20 days. Much work remains to be done and many issues have still not been dealt with in a thorough manner. According to the source, the main issues which still must be ironed out are the issues of security, border crossings, and the size of the Jericho enclave.

Regarding the issue of prisoner release, the source told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that if prisoners are released, during the first stage they will be people who have not shed any blood and who have expressed support for the Israel-PLO agreement. The source assesses that an agreement will eventually be reached. If by mid-January the Gaza-Jericho negotiations do not progress, however, this will be no cause for joy, as the source put it. The source noted that efforts are continuously invested on the MIA issue. He added, however, that we cannot say with certainty that the Palestinians can serve as a key element in this issue.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Ideological, Political Bodies Meet in Libya

Conference Agenda, Setting Detailed

LD1412180993 Tripoli JANA in English 1426 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 14—JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Great Jamahiriyah is hosting the largest demonstration of popular

political expression these days, involving all the various Arab ideological, political and other organisations. Political parties, [word indistinct] activists, [sentence as received] This is the fourth forum on democratic Arab revolutionary Arab dialogue which is being held under the theme of "Towards a single Arab popular revolutionary movement".

Participants in this forum, which began to arrive in the Great Jamahiriyah since Saturday [11 December], will be focusing on a discussion of various political and ideological issues with the aim of arriving at a working programme which benefit the Arab world.

The first part of the agenda is a discussion of the current Arab and international political situation in light of the political report presented by the committee for coordination and follow up of the dialogue forum. The second part of the agenda involves a discussion of the ideological aspect which will lead to an adoption of the ideological report and a presentation and adoption of the ideological working papers.

Sources speaking on behalf of the democratic revolutionary Arab forum said that for the first time in modern Arab history the main political Arab ideological trends are meeting in a strategic project with a Islamic-Arab-progressive component, with the aim of redrawing the future of the Arab world, between the various political parties and progressive Arab forces which have responded to the call of duty, and have braved the arduous journey from the farthest corners of the Arab world to meet in a forum which is calling for dialogue. They have also responded to the call of reason and to search for original thinking in the Arab world.

The sources added that at a time that the West is adopting a policy of conflict, violence and terrorism in order to divide and shatter the Arab world, these activists and progressive forces and their ideological and political trends are meeting to confront all conspiracies aimed at destroying our present and future existence.

This conference is being held at a time when the crusader colonialist forces are practicing a policy of seige and threats through the use of coercive measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah, and the various Arab political and ideological forces are meeting to express their opposition to such policies, to show their refusal to surrender and to counter all imperialist conspiracies and the neo crusader onslaught waged by the colonialist forces against the Arab world.

Libya's Salih Addresses Conference

LD1512145893 Tripoli JANA in English 1407 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] Tripoli (al-Kanun 15) [15 Dec] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution attended the plenary of the fourth session of the forum on democratic revolutionary dialogue which is being held under the theme "Towards a Single Arab Revolutionary Popular Movement. [no closing quotation marks as received]

This forum is the biggest event of political and popular expression ever to take place in modern Arab history, where the various political parties, trade union movements and other activists from throughout the Arab world have gathered.

Also attending the plenary session, were the various delegations representing these organisations and movements.

Bashir Salih al-Bashir, the secretary for foreign affairs in the Secretariat of the General Peoples Congress applauded the members of the various political, trade union and ideological organisations who had come to take part in the forum.

In a speech during this session, Salih said that this forum was being held at a time when the forces of repression and tyranny are mobilising all their forces against the Arab world. He said that the Great Jamahiriyah was hosting this forum which, for the first time in modern history had brought together all the various political and ideological activists and organisations as well as freedom loving forces in the Arab world.

The secretary for foreign affairs in the Secretariat of the General People's Congress added that the convening of this forum stemmed from the pan Arab initiative undertaken by the leader of the revolution and was a response to the vital forces in the Arab world. It also comes in response to a scientific, objective appraisal of the current situation in the Arab world at this time of disunity, fragmentation and reaction which exists in the absence of [passage indistinct] pan Arab strategy. The secretary emphasised the importance of the convening of this forum at this time and under the present conditions the Arab world is experiencing.

The secretary said that the application of direct popular democracy was the only channel for liberating the will of the Arab masses and solving the problem of the instruments of government in view of the bitter reality the world is living. He said that the Libyan Arab people were the only people in the world who were responsible for their own decision making and practised popular rule.

He added: "Our unswerving opinion, which has been distilled from the facts of history, shows that it is the masses alone who can achieve stability and protect the gains they achieved with own efforts. This ensures that they will be in charge of decision making and they will be responsible for implementing these decisions and to put them into practice. He pointed out the political, economic and social stability in the Great Jamahiriyah of more than a quarter of a century and said that this demonstrated the objective success of the masses in Libya, who are practising self rule through popular congresses and committees.

The secretary for foreign affairs in the Secretariat of the General Peoples Congress continued saying that the tightening of the unjust stringent measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah by the spiteful western countries would only serve to strengthen our determination and unrelentingness.

The secretary added that the imposition of these sanctions would only serve to exacerbate problems in the Arab world and would soon stir up feelings of resentment in the youth throughout the Arab world. He said that the reason why the imperialists were focusing their fierce attack on the Great Jamahiriyah was due to racist and religious attacks.

Taysir Qubba'h [leading member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP] also gave a speech during the plenary in which he said that during these dark times and the great setbacks experienced by our nation in its c 'nfrontation with the most fierce *Zionist* imperialist attack, we have this forum which stems from the initiative undertaken by the leader of the great al-Fateh revolution of September, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi [word indistinct] to reinvigorate the active forces in the Arab world and to deliberate on the various ideological issues on unity and Arab struggle, in defense of a common destiny, countering the forces of *Zionism* and imperialism.

Taysir Qubba'h said: "You placed your faith in the Arab nation because you realised that the Arab world was storing a force capable of upsetting the current balance of things. No force, no matter what shape it takes, is capable of deterring someone who is determined to sacrifice his or her life for his country, to liberate his land, and to safeguard one's dignity. Because the democratic revolutionary Arab forum is the fruit of your initiative, oh leader, then we present to you the vibrant Arab, nationalist, Islamic, And communist forces which are capable of facing the Western colonialist siege.

The Arab nation rejects this siege and stands united with the Great Jamahiriyah and its leader, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and to say to you, oh leader, oh knight riding out from the Arab desert with the purity of the revolution, faith and the sacredness of the cause—you can be sure that all the Arabs and their active forces are on your side on this great day. [no closing quotation mark, as received]

Qubba'h continued saying that this was the Arab popular revolutionary movement which you cultivated and fostered since al Fateh 1969, you raised the banner of Palestine and Jerusalem—and one can see the conspirators planning to undermine the Palestinian cause through despicable agreements and you continue to have faith in the ideas you imparted ever since the outbreak of the great Al Fateh revolution. You transformed Libya, which had been a base for foreign fighter planes to launch their attacks against the Arab revolution, into a meeting place for the revolutionary movement, comprising all its various factions, a movement which produced the steadfastness and resistance front, the Arab Peoples Congress, the Pan Arab leadership, the Islamic Call Society, the World Mathaba and the Islamic popular leadership.

Qubba'h ended his speech saying that all these efforts were realised as a result of your historical initiative to unite the three ideological trends: Islamic teachings, pan Arabism and communism for the first time in modern Arab history.

George Hawi [secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party] also gave a speech to the plenary session saying that the forum had been convened in response to a call by the leader of the revolution, the freedom fighter, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in order to discuss various ideological concerns and to draw up a programme to be able to confront the dangers threatening the Arab world, the extent of these dangers, as well as the other challenges faced by the Arab world.

In his speech, Hawi said that the leader's initiative was alert to the effects which arose as a result of the collapse in the Soviet Union and the socialist camp due to the ferocity of the *Zionist* imperialist onslaught against the nations of the world, particularly our nation and the Islamic people. This led to a search for a pan Arab meaning for existence.

He said that this initiative aims to mobilise all this nation's material and moral potential and to reinvigorate its vital energy in order to defend the pan Arab existence on the long path of struggle for pan Arab unity.

He said that after the Gulf war, the seige imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah and the threats it is facing in retribution for its revolution, leader, its achievements, its espousal of the Palestinian cause, and other Arab causes, there has been an escalation in *Zionist* attacks on Lebanon, pressure has been intensified against Syria, there is preparations for an attack on the Sudan, there are conspiring against Yemen's unity and are trying to divide the Arab world. Then, he said there is the tightening of the grip on the Arab world and the exploiting of the United Nations and the Security Council to fulfill imperialist *Zionist* ambitions—in face of this situation, the Madrid negotiations began, then the Washington talks, then there were the multilateral talks in Moscow, and other cities, then the worst happened with the declaration of the Gaza-Jericho accord. Hawi said that this forum was being held to counter this event, in all it symbolises and entails in the Arab *Zionist* conflict and the existence of the Arab nation's future.

He said that the Arab nation had found itself in the face of an historic challenge which is represented in the need to properly analyse the situation within its proper historical context as ove part in the series of defeats and retreats suffered by the Arab nationalist liberation movement and the need for self criticism in order to pinpoint

the responsibility of each liberation movement and representative of the various social, nationalist, Islamic communist and independent forces.

A programme of struggle should also be drawn up in order to confront this stage and to place as many obstacles as possible to confront the plan and to ensure its failure.

In his speech, George Hawi said that dialogue was the only avenue to achieve this and a method which not one individual, political party, trend or ideological movement could decide. He said that dialogue, in the past had facilitated the realisation of tangible results as can be seen in the specialised reports and that dialogue was in need of a substantial step which would ensure that it was upheld by a firm institution with a sound ideological basis to ensure increased awareness, understanding, acceptance, respect and mutual response.

He continued: "The forum dialogue should be raised within the level of struggle and politics to an organisational level, much higher and more capable of making decisions and ensuring wise decisions are implemented. [no closing quotation mark, as received] He said that the forum was a basis for the establishement of a single Arab, revolutionary popular movement in order to contribute to creating progress and to create an instrument for enlisting jamahiri struggle.

Hawi said the best way to evaluate the success of this forum would be to see the extent of progress achieved on the road to building an Arab revolutionary popular movement on a realistic basis and the widest democratic base which would take the various ideological, regional and social loyalties into account. Hawi said that the convening of this forum was a response to the danger threatening the Arab world and stemmed from a desire to search for a means to confront this danger as well as to demonstrate solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah, a belief in the steadfastness of the great al-Fateh revolution, and its leader and to declare its determination to fight to lift the blockade on the Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Address

LD0612135093 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1953 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Speech by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the opening session of the "Fourth Forum of Arab Democratic Revolutionary Dialogue" in Tripoli on 15 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] It is not strange that the colonialist forces try to impose sanctions and isolation on a country like Libya. This is a normal thing, and we are not annoyed by it. On the contrary, it honors us as it honored Sudan in recent years, when Sudan was blacklisted as a country that sponsors terrorism. This is an honor for the Sudanese people. [applause]

The sanctions mean that Libya is a fortress, and the enemy always tries to isolate and besiege steadfast fortresses in order to weaken them. This is to put it in simple terms. If Libya were not a steadfast fortress in the face of colonialism, the colonialist countries would not have tried all kinds of isolation, sanctions, or siege. It is the opposite with usurped places, countries with which the enemy establishes bridges in order to benefit from usurping them. The enemy crosses into and out of them and does not besiege them. This is what is happening in such places. We see them as out of the reach of attempts at isolation, threats, harassment, sanctions, and siege. The enemy has finished its mission toward these places and has usurped them. Now the enemy besieges the positions that are still resisting.

Your presence, however—you from the ocean to the Gulf who are present in Tripoli today—you are the effective and enlightened democratic revolutionary forces. Your presence is a clear reply from the Arab nation that it stands by the Libyan people, stands by the Jamahiriyah. This is enough for us. It honors you that you are isolated from the colonialists and their lackeys, even in the Arab region. [passage omitted]

In whose name are these resolutions issued against Libya? In fact, they are only issued in the names of the U.S., Britain, and France. The isolated states are the three Western superpowers, the colonialist states.

Adhering to the sanctions that have been imposed on the so-called Security Council shows scorn for the international community. It is scorn for the resolutions of the OAU, ICO [Islamic Conference Organization], the Non-aligned Movement, popular organizations, the popular masses, and eminent independent personalities. These three states scorn all the non-aligned states. [passage omitted]

The League of Nations came to an end, and they set up the United Nations on its rubble after World War II. They now trample with their feet on the UN Charter and falsify the so-called Security Council. They scorn the resolutions of the overwhelming majority of the member states of this organization in order to prove that their voices—they, the minority—are more powerful than the voices of all the nations that united and set up this organization.

We have to declare now that the organization that is present at the moment under the name of the United Nations has become NATO. We did not decide nor did we ask our nations to join NATO. Therefore, we have no choice but to reconsider our membership in this organization, which we used to think was the United Nations and is now NATO.

With all regret and sorrow, we declare the end of the United Nations. We are indeed sad and feel sorry about this, because humanity—after experiencing ordeals and tragedies, especially after the two world wars—tried to adapt reasoning and law and tried to agree on a charter that respects the independence of nations and that

safeguards world peace. The charter-which was laid down by those nations that were incinerated by the flames of the first and second world wars—stated that, beginning with foundation of the United Nations, and after humanity had suffered great calamities as a result of resorting to force in solving disputes—it stated that disputes would be resolved according to the charter by peaceful means. [passage omitted]

These peoples hastened to sign the UN Charter. These peoples rejoiced a great deal at this victory—the triumph of the human mind and the law—and a distinction was made between the jungle where there are animals and the world of the human being. After that, we were surprised to find out that we were greatly deceived by joining NATO and that this organization, which we used to believe would protect us, was a mere sword drawn on the necks of the nations. We are surprised that it is being used terribly these days. These days—and since the Bush era, to be precise—you have been hearing that the United Nations has a great role in the world. [passage omitted]

The fact is that the peoples decided that—after having learned for certain that the United Nations had become a colonialist tool in their hands, that it was not sacrosanct, that it lacked a charter, and that it was not respected—it was not the United Nations [charter] that the peoples had signed. Thus, the United Nations will attack any state when the United States, Britain, and France order the United Nations to attack.

From here, we address these words to our Arab brothers—especially the Arab rulers—and tell them that you are going along with resolutions that were falsely issued—according to the prosecution witnesses, who tell us that they voted at the Security Council for the resolutions despite their conviction that we are innocent because they were threatened with the halting of United States or French aid. They tell us: We have voted against you, brothers, despite our conviction that you are innocent because we were threatened that force would be used against us, or a conspiracy would be hatched against us, or that our government would be toppled.

Prosecution witnesses told us: We have voted because we are in a bad economic situation, and they have promised to correct this situation and give us economic assistance if we voted in favor of this resolution. [voice interrupts from the floor]

Yes? Yes, you are right. Were these resolutions legal? Were these resolutions legitimate? These are false resolutions. [passage omitted] This is what is there at the Security Council now. This evidence does exist in the case of Cape Verde. Why did it vote for the latest Resolution 883 ? It was forced to vote for it. Its government has admitted that they were forced to vote for the resolution, although the resolution was unjust. How many other states? Take Spain, for example. It voted under U.S. threats. We are exposing the Security Council now, because we have finished with it now, and there are no relations between us and the Security Council nor between us and the United Nations. We consider them as finished. I cannot remember the entire list, but I could bring the list of all the states that voted against Libya and the reasons why. It is because they were forced to vote against us. Therefore, these resolutions are null and void. Let the whole world hear this. [applause] [passage omitted]

We should realize that these three states are isolated. The Arab governments should face this fact. Where will we end up if you continue to implement what the falsified Security Council adopts? As I said, resolutions are adopted by coercion according to witnesses. Let us suppose that they said that, in accordance with Chapter 7, the so-called Security Council says: Every state should fight Libya. Alright. They expect Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria, and all our neighbors, such as Sudan, to do so. This is what Chapter 7 says, and it is inevitable that the resolution would be implemented.

According to Chapter 7—they said—an air ban was imposed on Libya. All the Arab countries observed this ban. Chapter 7 said that Libyan assets should be frozen. All of the Arab countries raised their hands [voted for the resolution] in fear. Tomorrow they will say that, according to Chapter 7, we have decided to fight Libya. This means that Egypt has to supply the effort with 100 aircraft, Algeria 20 aircraft, Tunisia five aircraft, and Sudan 1,000 daggers or arrows. [laughter]

This means that it is inevitable that Chapter 7, which they are now applying to Libya, should be implemented. Let us suppose that the resolution this year or next year will be in this form; what will be the attitude of the Arab rulers to this? They will accept and fight Libya. This is unbelievable. As a matter of fact, Syria was the only state—and we say this in front of you—to say right from the time when the first resolution was issued that it would not recognize any ban against Libya, nor would it halt any aircraft from going to Libya. [applause]

If the countries that are located between Libya and Syria had allowed the passage of Libyan and Syrian air traffic, the air links between Libya and Syria would have continued. We were even banned from the pilgrimage. They said Mecca was within the ban. It was under Resolution 748. If they placed Mecca within the ban, how can we rule out the possibility of our Arab governments not fighting an Arab country? Of course they would fight. Did they not fight Iraq in accordance with Chapter 7? Arab forces and U.S. forces fought Iraq side-by-side. [passage omitted]

As you have expressed in the statements you have made at this gathering, we cannot believe that we are facing international legitimacy or a United Nations. No, the Arab nation is now confronting a process that aims to impose surrender on it; there should be no doubt about that. You may recall the Cairo talks or the Madrid talks or Jericho or Acre or Gaza, etc.; all this is an attempt to impose surrender on a nation called the Arab nation.

What is being carried out now by the Western states is to impose surrender on the Arab nation. They want a nation to surrender. That is all.

Every Arab citizen should know this. He may hear this over the radio or read it in the newspapers or see it in every form it may take in any country or in any capital city. Everything is being poured into this crucible—the process of imposing surrender on the nation. You should understand this. What is taking place in Algeria, or in Egypt, or in Libya, or in Iraq, or in the Yemen, or in the Sudan—you are witnessing what situation the nation is in. In the Sudan, there is a conspiracy of continuous attrition. There is a conspiracy in Egypt; there is a conspiracy in Algeria. There is a conspiracy against Libya. There is a conspiracy against Iraq. The West told Iraq to occupy Kuwait. [passage omitted]

They have imposed this situation on the Sudan. They have imposed a certain situation on Syria. They have encircled Syria; they have drowned it and created problems for it along its border. Let us take each Arab state individually. Begin with Iraq, about which I said something a short while ago. The Americans during the Bush era were the ones who said to Iraq: We want you to occupy Kuwait. Kuwait is not a state, and what we are concerned about is the oil.

This also happened in Libya. Libya used to consist of three provinces, each province was like a state. When oil was discovered in Libya, U.S. came and said: Unite the provinces and make a state. We cannot see oil in this or that part, and it may lead to disputes between this or that province. They specifically said that they were concerned about the oil in Kuwait and in Iraq. Maybe their plan went further, to other areas. They said: We want the oil to be in the hand of one party and that party should be strong.

Iraq is a strong country, and as a reward to you—and they cannot refute this because they will make themselves liars if they refute this—because you stood against the Khomeyni revolution, we are giving you this gift: Kuwait. Let Kuwait understand this! They said: We are giving you Kuwait as a gift. Annex Kuwait, and we will support you. With Kuwaiti oil you will make good the losses you sustained during your war against the Khomeyni revolution, which we ourselves opposed.

The U.S. ambassador said this to Iraq. This exists on record. They know that. Naturally, Iraq regards Kuwait as part of Iraq from the historic point of view. This is not only by President Saddam. It even was the case with regard to 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim. You remember 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim. This is an old Iraqi claim over Kuwait—that Kuwait is a governorate of Iraq. What took place then is history now. When the operation turned out this way, they reneged on their own promises. They destroyed Iraq. Kuwait is now mortgaged. The entire Gulf is now in the hand of the Western forces.

You are witnessing now what goes on in Iraq. What is happening in Iraq now has got nothing to do with Kuwait at all. Can the partitioning of Iraq be related to Kuwait? What chemical weapons did Iraq use so that they can say that they want to destroy these? Did Iraq use nuclear weapons so that they can say that Iraq is forbidden to manufacture nuclear weapons? All this has nothing to do with Kuwait. It is because Iraq hit the Israelis with 30 missiles. [applause] It is being punished for that. They are making it pay the price. [voice from the audience]

Yes, 39. Who dares hit Israel? Yes. Now they are making Iraq pay the price. You have seen that. They applied Chapter 7 and told the Arabs: Come all of you and hit Iraq. We hit Iraq. That was according to Chapter 7. What could we do? The United Nations wanted it.

It is not the issue of Kuwait or anything else. It is a conspiracy against the Arab nation, as I told you. They want to bring this nation to its knees. Alright. They finished with Iraq, and they have put their hand on the entire Gulf. Then they came to Libya and said: You are forbidden from purchasing weapons. You are forbidden from receiving any aircraft coming from abroad and from sending an aircraft abroad. You are forbidden from developing the oil industry, etc. Your assets will be frozen. This is a strangulation of another Arab country.

They have created a problem for Sudan so that they blow it up and make it remain underdeveloped in this way. They have also created a civil war for Algeria and Egypt. Syria's turn will inevitably come. The two greatest states after Iraq are Egypt and Algeria after they finished off Iraq. They are now pleased and contented about Algeria and Egypt. Do not say it is the Islamists who have done it when you hear about anything which happens in the streets in Egypt or Algeria. I will stress this to you that 90 percent of what you hear comes from the CIA and the Mosad. [applause]

This is an opportunity, if somebody sets a bomb, they say it is an Islamist and so long as there is a scapegoat, the CIA and others come in. [passage omitted]

You can do anything in Egypt and Algeria and say this is Islamic terrorism. The CIA and the Mosad, in addition to British and French intelligence, are undoubtedly behind this. What is left after Libya? Syria remains. Its turn will come and when Syria, Libya, Egypt, Algeria and Iraq are finished what will be left?

They have conspired against Yemen as you see. You have reminded me of Yemen. What is left of the Arab nation, it is now falling and burning. How is this? This is a dangerous conspiracy which is eating up part of the nation. How come we are not paying attention to this conspiracy? There is nothing called Chapter Seven, the Security Council, or the United Nations. No, this is an attempt to impose a surrender on the Arab nation.

You are free, it is up to you. If you want your children and grandchildren to live as slaves and vagabonds like gypsies just wait for the end, put one hand on the other and wait and say: We respect international legality. Well if you like just respect the legality of colonialism. If you

want to save your dignity, your future, and that of the nation there is nothing but unity and putting an end to the scenario which is in force now.

First should be the unification of this force. I believe that we have put our hand or foot on the right path as the revolutionary democratic forces in the Arab homeland meets and gets committed. I do not know when they started, 1989 or 1990 and we are now in 1993. In fact, what has encouraged me is that these forces are committed.

Naturally, some have fallen by the roadside; some people fell. Some of the organizations were tested and it became apparent that they were not real or popular parties, and that they had no freedom of movement as they were established by a government, as a matter of fact they consisted of two or three people, and it was not a party. These are absent now. Those who are absent were told by their governments not to come. But at the same time I would like to tell our brothers the rulers this: If you prevent democratic dialogue I think you will push the people into violence. I see that democratic dialogue and the unification of the democratic and revolutionary popular forces of the Arab nation will save the Arab governments and enable them to avoid confronting the revolution. But if the Arab governments stand in the way of democratic dialogue they will be digging their own graves by their own hands. [passage omitted]

They [Arab rulers] have obstructed it [al-Qadhdhafi's proposal], therefore they should wait and see what the result will be? In the end the unarmed forces will stage a revolution. This is clear. These words I say to you here and say them at an Arab summit too, or when I meet each Arab ruler individually. These are very clear words; it is a piece of advice.

Now anyone who does not stand up to the colonialist intervention in the Arab world faces violence. Now, we are a nation [words indistinct] on which defeat is imposed [word indistinct] Do you know about the catastrophe they are preparing nowadays? They are asking the false Security Council, to abrogate all the resolutions that have been passed against the so-called Israel! Can you imagine?! The resolution on the [Israeli] withdrawal from south of Lebanon, Resolution 425 and the right of return to be abrogated, as well as Resolution 181 on the partition of Palestine between the Arabs and the Israelis, and ... [pause] ... You have already seen that the United Nations abrogated the resolution which says Zionism is a form of racism. By bribery and the use of the carrot and stick policy [they tell] every government either you vote against and we cut off aid, or you vote for and we will give you aid. You see, this is international legitimacy. This is a catastrophe which is coming soon. Contacts are under way with the Arab governments. [word indistinct] agree that the Security Council convenes and abrogates all the resolutions passed against the so-called Israel. When they [the Arab governments] said: Include also resolutions against Libya or Iraq or against those poor peoples, they [the Security Council] said: no. Chapter Seven is on Libya. You are abrogating all resolutions, say also: let bygones be bygones, then convene and say that all Security Council resolutions against all those poor peoples are abrogated. They say: no, the resolutions against so-called Israel are the only ones to be abrogated. As for resolutions against Lebanon, Syria, Libya, Iraq, Sudan, and any other Arab countries they remain in force.

[Unidentified voice from audience] Chapter 7 is a specialty for the Arabs. [Al-Qadhdhafi continues] Yes. For your information, so-called Israel is exempt from Chapter Seven. Regardless of what acts it [Israel] commits on which Chapter Seven should be implemented, [they] never apply Chapter Seven to it. Israel is also exempt from the United Nations' sanctions. The United Nations could never impose sanctions on so-called Israel. Open the records and see, have there been any sanctions? If the United Nations decided to impose sanctions [on Israel] one of the western countries would use its veto.

Now they are adding Japan and Germany to the Security Council. More of it? They say put the straw mill on him and he is weighed down anyway. [Arab proverb] [passage omitted]

We are already overloaded with the weight of the three states and their vetoes, now they added the vetoes of Japan and Germany. They would further grind down the nations when their number becomes five: Japan, Germany, Britain and the United States. They will all be in one basket.

[Unidentified man in audience] And Russia!

[Al-Qadhdhafi continues] Yes indeed. Russia also. But Russia has interactions and might turn against them at any time. Now somebody has emerged who everybody is talking about, who is scaring them [Zhirinovskiy]. The west is terrified. They are saying that a dangerous man has succeeded.

[Unidentified man] [Words indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi continues] God willing. Amen. [laughter and applause] First it is difficult to convince the Arab governments of what we—as masses and as a revolutionary force—want. But it is easy for us to move in the street and convince the street and the citizen. I see this as a necessary thing. This is a defense of our existence. We have no alternative but this—to move in the street and to arouse the nation, we have to explain to the ordinary citizen the danger he is in. This is because America tomorrow may ask for this ordinary citizen to be handed over to it, and when he is handed to it he may be sentenced to 90 years imprisonment. Do you realize that a person can receive a 300 year sentence in America? They sentence him to 300 years' imprisonment! They imprison him after his death too. This is a disregard of mankind and man. You should inform the ordinary Arab citizen that at a given hour he may be wanted by America, Britain, or France, and that his government would hand him over to these regardless, and that his

family may be wailing, but he is forcibly handed over to be tried to be sentenced to 300 years imprisonment with hard labor. He may be a man or woman; they do not say that they respect women. They may be after your wife. [passage omitted]

They said to us: Hand over so and so and so and so to us because they are suspects in the Lockerbie case. They did not say hand them over to us because they are men. No, hand them over because they are suspects. This nation is being insulted by colonialism. If you are a living force and a revolutionary force you have no alternative but to mobilize the street. Not by bombs or revolvers, or guns or secret action; no, quite openly. I am a citizen and I fear for myself because my government tomorrow may hand me over to America. That is all you have to say. We want this nation to be strong. [passage omitted]

We are facing an evil, arrogant and unethical force; it has no conscience. The West is a force that has no conscience; it is immoral. Proof of this lies in this fact: When there was a deterrent the West used to respect the law, but when the deterrent became absent the West trampled on the law with its feet. This is the difference between us and them; either you have ethics or not. When the Soviet Union was there you [the West] used to fear it and used to respect the law, but when the Soviet Union fell you trampled on the law; this means that you have no ethics. Where is your conscience? Where is the Christian civilization and the Christian ethics? [passage omitted]

What we want to say in conclusion is that a mechanism should be created for this meeting and these forces here. You should create a mechanism—one of you should be elected as secretary general, and the leader of each party, or organization or movement should be a member of this secretariat; or all the forces within the one country should establish a unified leadership whose secretary will be a member of the secretariat. [passage omitted]

Do you know that the Arab governments are frightened; they no longer listen to their own advisors, or peoples, or parliaments? They listen to the CNN and the press conferences held in the White House—what do they exactly say because they will implement that tomorrow. By God they no longer listen to each other; they only listen to what the enemy is saying. [passage omitted]

Let the Arab governments understand that we are citizens who are fearing for themselves. Any ruler who is afraid is welcome to get out; he should not impose surrender on us. Let him go home; we will collect money for him to live on. He should not stay as a ruler and then sell us down the river. If you cannot stand against the enemy leave us. But the nation is facing danger. This is what I wanted to say to you. I am proud of you being here out of your feeling of responsibility. I salute your presence here in your country, Tripoli. This is a challenge by the effective and living forces of this nation to our enemy. These are the signs of the confrontation. God willing the countdown of the enemy and the countup of this nation will begin. The struggle continues.

Conference Issues Final Communique

LD1612145693 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Dec 93

["Text" of the final communique of the "Fourth Session of the Arab Democratic Revolutionary Dialogue" issued in Tripoli on 15 December]

[Excerpts] Under the slogan, "For Building the Single Arab Revolutionary Popular Movement," the fourth session of the Arab Democratic Revolutionary Dialogue was held in Tripoli, the Great Jamahiriyah, during the period 14-16 December 1993. The session was characterized by a very high degree of precision in organization, preparation, and participation—both in number and quality. The gathering consisted of more than 300 leaders of parties and political organizations—national, Islamic, Marxist, and independent—as well as workers, women, students, youth and pan-Arab groups, regional organizations, unions, and ideological and cultural personalities from various countries of the Arab homeland and from the main stream. [passage omitted]

On the second day, the work of the meeting was distributed among three committees—the political, procedural, and ideological committees—to discuss plans submitted by the coordination and follow-up committee regarding the political situation and the ideological dialogues and organizational proposals for the development and bolstering of the situation of the meeting. In an atmosphere full of democratic dialogue and international responsibility under the difficult political circumstances in which the Arab nation is passing and the great dangers that are the outcome of the second Gulf War and the Gaza-Jericho agreement, the participants looked at all the issues that the three reports dealt with and responsibly analyzed the international, pan-Arab, and regional political situations and made the necessary amendments to the submitted plans.

At its final session, the meeting studied the reports submitted to it by the three committees and appreciated the great efforts made by all brothers to make the work of the session successful by democratic dialogue.

The conference has adopted the following resolutions:

First, the political aspect: The conference decided to consider the speech of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the brother leader of the revolution, at the opening session as a fundamental document of the fourth session. The conference has reaffirmed its total rejection of and its strong denunciation of the unjust and hostile resolutions that the UN Security Council has adopted—which express the American will against Libya—stressing its total partnership with the Jamahiriyah, its people, and its historic leadership, and the conference's deep appreciation of the many initiatives made by the Jamahiriyah in dealing with the fabricated crisis in connection with the Lockerbie incident. [passage omitted]

The gathering devoted a long time to studying the Gaza-Jericho agreement in its historic context—and the Arab and Palestinian policies that led to this agreement—and the great dangers that this agreement entails for the Palestinian people and the entire Arab nation. These dangers include the liquidation of the Palestinian issue, making the land and people Jewish, the recognition of the Zionist entity, the maintaining of the settlements, the annexation of Jerusalem, and the liquidation of the intifadah. They also include the striking of a security, economic, and political alliance with the Zionist enemy in order to establish the point of a bayonet in order to penetrate the entire Arab situation and ultimately to accomplish the Zionist project of establishing greater Israel through the Middle Eastern market. Then they will market the Zionist entity in the entire Arab region so that the said entity will be a capable nuclear, military, and economic force dominating the Arab homeland.

In view of the great dangers that this humiliating agreement entails, the meeting reaffirmed its frank condemnation of this agreement and its total rejection of it. The meeting reaffirmed its stand with the Palestinian people and their valiant intifadah. The meeting condemned those who signed the agreement and regarded their action as a departure from the principles and aims of the meeting.

The meeting reaffirms its stand with fraternal Iraq and its steadfastness and expresses its rejection of the policies of blockade and hunger being practiced by the imperialist states under the banner of the UN Security Council. The meeting denounces the criminal imperialist steps that aim to tear Iraq apart and to deprive it of the means of strength necessary to defend itself against the continued threats by the Zionists and imperialists and demands the immediate lifting of the unjust blockade on Iraq.

The meeting reaffirms its solidarity with the steadfastness of Syria and its pan-Arab stances in confronting imperialist and Zionist pressures, threats, and plans, and the liquidationist plans in the region. The meeting deeply appreciates Syria's great sacrifices and its protection of the right to resistance in confronting the Zionist enemy and those who are dealing with him, and its just struggle to regain all the Golan and the occupied Arab territories.

The meeting reaffirmed its total stand with the Lebanese people and its national and Islamic resistance against the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. It appreciates the steadfastness of the Lebanese people and insists on the full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 425, which demands the Zionist entity's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

The meeting reaffirms its stand with the fraternal Yemeni people and highly appreciates its unionist and democratic achievements. It expresses its profound anxiety over the political crisis and appeals to all sides to abandon violence and to insist on dialogue and not to compromise in way or form the unity, democracy, political pluralism, and the great achievements realized by the Yemeni people for which the Yemeni people sacrificed thousands of martyrs.

The meeting reaffirms its stand with the Sudan and rejects the imperialist policy of blackmail and threats against it. The meeting reaffirms its rejection of the blockade and the continuous American interference in the internal affairs of the Sudan on the pretext of continuing to monitor the implementation of the blockade resolutions against Iraq. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Israeli Operations, Violence at Palestinian Camp

Israeli Landing Operation Reported

NC1612060593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] A correspondent of the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY in 'Akkar reported a short while ago that an Israeli landing operation took place in Nahr al-Barid [Palestinian refugee] camp at midnight last night. Israeli warships supported this operation. He noted that hand-to-hand clashes took place between the attacking forces and members of the Palestinian organizations in the camp. Asad Kayid Rida and Samir Tarawiyah were wounded. The enemy's losses could not be determined. The enemy withdrew as a result of the military resistance mounted against it.

The correspondent said that a statement issued by the Palestinian organizations said that the enemy does not abide by the suspect and humiliating agreements, particularly the Gaza-Jericho agreement between 'Arafat and Rabin.

DFLP Claims Clash With Israelis

NC1612182593 Paris AFP in English 1616 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Damascus, Dec 16 (AFP)—A hardline Palestinian group, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), said on Thursday [16 December] its forces clashed with Israeli paratroopers in northern Lebanon overnight Wednesday.

In a statement issued here, the DFLP said its forces clashed with Israeli paratroopers who landed during the night at the Nahr al-Barid camp, a DFLP base, and "inflicted losses on the enemy, the extent of which is still not known."

"Bloodstains were found on the road used by the retreating enemy forces," the statement said, adding that two DFLP fighters were wounded in the clash.

The DFLP said the Israeli attack was a response to successful operations carried out by its forces in the occupied territories.

The DFLP, led by Nayif Hawatimah, has rejected the Palestinian autonomy accord signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Washington on September 13.

In southern Lebanon pro-Syrian guerrillas at dawn Thursday fired mortars, automatic weapons and anti-tank rockets at Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army, but caused no casualties, SLA officials said.

Amal guerrillas attacked SLA positions twice in Bra'shit, inside the self-declared Israeli security zone, prompting retaliatory shelling by Israeli and SLA artillery, they said.

Amal, whose leader Nabih Birri is also speaker of Lebanon's parliament, said in a statement from the southern port of Sidon that it carried out the attack which it claimed caused casualties.

Inter-Palestinian Clashes Reported

NC1612064593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0629 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Our security correspondent reports that differences have occurred among Palestinian groups in the Nahr al-Barid camp in the north which led to clashes that left one person wounded. That person was rushed to the Islamic Hospital.

There were reports that an Israeli landing operation took place in the camp last night.

Our correspondent says that one person is being held at the al-Tall police station and others in al-Qubbah station in Tripoli for questioning concerning the incidents.

Meanwhile, the villages of Tibnin, Bra'shit, and Shaqra in the central sector in southern Lebanon have been coming under intermittent Israeli shelling since dawn today. Tension prevails in other southern areas.

Split Within Ahmad Jibril Wing Reported

NC1612184093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The repercussions of Gaza-Jericho accord spread to Nahr al-Barid Camp in the north, where two Palestinians were wounded in clashes the reasons for which are not yet known. But reports from the camp spoke of a split within the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, Ahmad Jibril's wing.

Jibril, Delegation Meet Iran's Habibi, Velayati

JN1612205793 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1754 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] A delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] headed by Secretary General Ahmad Jibril this morning met with Iranian First Vice President Hasan Habibi and Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The PFLP-GC delegation reviewed the most recent Palestinian developments, as well as the sweeping intifadah escalation in the face of the Zionist war machine and the 'Arafat-Rabin accord.

The delegation expressed fears over the Zionist military measures and the 'Arafatist police measures, which aim to squash the intifadah and kill it. It also reviewed the persistent efforts made by the secretaries general of the 10 Palestinian factions [opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks] to agree on a formula that would promote ties among these factions, particularly since the meetings held by these factions have continued since yesterday. The climate of the discussions indicates that the time for reaching agreement on a new formula for ties among these factions is approaching. Discussions on this issue have continued for months.

For his part, Iranian First Vice President Hasan Habibi expressed unwavering sympathy with the intifadah and reiterated Iran's position, which believes that the Gaza-Jericho accord is detrimental to the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's jihad.

PFLP, DFLP, Hizballah Leaders Denounce Accord

JN1712091893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Damascus—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] this evening held a speech rally to mark the 26th anniversary of its founding and the sixth anniversary of the valiant Palestinian intifadah. The rally was attended by a number of the secretaries general of the 10 Palestinian factions and their political bureau members, along with representatives of Arab liberation movements, foreign embassy personnel, and ordinary citizens.

'Ali al-Musawi, deputy secretary general of the Lebanese Hizballah, delivered a speech on behalf of the Lebanese nationalist and Islamic forces, in which he denounced the Gaza-Jericho accord. He said: Our people in the West Bank and Gaza have rejected this agreement, which he said is about to crumble. Al-Musawi stressed the need to liberate the occupied Arab territory in Palestine, south Lebanon, and the Golan. We will defend and protect every grain of our country's soil with our blood, he declared.

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], followed with a speech on behalf of the 10 Palestinian factions, in which he noted that the struggle will be pursued until the rights of the Palestinian people to return and the establishment of a free and independent state with Jerusalem as its capital are assured. He denounced the Gaza-Jericho accord, which the Arab Palestinian people inside the occupied territory and in the diaspora have rejected

through demonstrations, strikes, and sit-ins, and by escalating the intifadah against the forces of the Israeli enemy. This is the will of the people, said Hawatimah. He called for the Gaza-Jericho accord to be put to a referendum and for the will of the people to be respected, reaffirming that the people will say no to the Oslo-Washington agreement and yes to self-determination, statehood, and the right to return.

Concluding his speech, Mr. Hawatimah commended the Syrian Arab people who are standing by the Palestinian people. We are fighting for a comprehensive and balanced peace as the road to international, Arab, and Palestinian legitimacy, Hawatimah declared.

The rally was then addressed by Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP, who lauded the leadership and people of Arab Syria for their positions. He noted Syria's insistence on a complete Israeli pullout from the occupied Arab territory, including Jerusalem. He denounced the Gaza-Jericho accord for ignoring the blood of Palestinian and Arab martyrs that has been spilled for the sake of the liberation of Palestine. Habash also observed that the accord ignores the Palestinian people's objectives; namely their return to their homeland, and an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. He applauded the valiant Palestinian intifadah, and called for it to be supported and backed until it realizes the freedom and independence it set out to achieve.

Concluding, Dr. Habash hailed Palestinian strugglers, virtuous martyrs, and prisoners and detainees held by the enemy. We will not surrender and we will pursue the struggle until our people attain their just rights, the PFLP chief stated.

DFLP, PFLP 'Regret' UN Resolution on Accord

TA1612154693 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Dec 93 pp 1, 7

[Text] The spokesman of the central unified leadership of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] expressed his regret at yesterday's approval by the UN General Assembly of a U.S.-Russian-Norwegian resolution which considers the Oslo accord "a basic and important step for reaching a just peace." The resolution ignores the Palestinian people's right of return, self-determination, and independence as well as Resolution 425 relating to Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon.

The spokesman stressed that this resolution represents a step toward reinforcing the Oslo accord as the only basis for solving the Palestinian problem. It also abrogates the resolutions of international legitimacy relating to the Palestinian people's right of return, self-determination, and independence which the General Assembly consistently endorsed in all its previous sessions. Furthermore, the United States refrained from supporting Resolution 194 of 1948 at this session in contrast to previous sessions.

The spokesman considered the new resolution a U.S. maneuver to annul all the resolutions of international legitimacy. He added that it was regrettable that the United States managed to draw most of the international community into its maneuver, which seeks to nullify and dilute the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. The Palestinian bureaucratic wing, which signed the Oslo accord, bears a great responsibility for the retreat of UN resolutions and the distortion of international legitimacy in such a sad manner.

Hamas Denounces UN Resolution on Accord

TA1612160193 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 Dec 93 p 2

[By Muhammad Sulayman]

[Text] Amman, QUDS PRESS—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has denounced the UN General Assembly resolution endorsing the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles accord.

Muhammad Nazzal, the movement's spokesman in Jordan, said: It is obvious that the U.S. Administration has become the influential guide of UN resolutions. Since the participation of the Israeli side in the negotiations, it has achieved gains on all levels, including the international level.

Nazzal said that the United States is exerting intense efforts "to annul the resolutions relating to the Palestinian problem." He noted that these moves come at a time when "issues relating to the core of the Palestinian problem remain unresolved."

On the obstacles facing the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement, which Hamas vehemently opposes, Nazzal said: In our view, these issues that are being raised and discussed represent an attempt by Yasir 'Arafat to score points and appear before Palestinians as if he is concerned for the Palestinian cause. We believe these issues are not fundamental. In our opinion, the core of the Palestinian problem is the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, the future of Jerusalem, and the return of the refugees. These issues represent the core of the Palestinian problem. The other issues are procedural, not fundamental.

On reports about meetings between Hamas officials and Israeli Army officers, Nazzal said: There are political motives behind the announcement on contacts between Hamas and the Israeli authorities, especially since the announcement was made by one side, not by two sides. The Israeli announcement was made at this juncture for several reasons, including pressuring 'Arafat to obtain further concessions and creating confusion among Palestinians at the current stage.

On Hamas' stance regarding self-rule, he said: Contrary to what Almog said, we do not prefer the occupation, although there are legitimate fears concerning the self-rule authority. This, however, does not mean that we want the occupation to remain.

Nazzal paid tribute to the Palestinian deportees who returned from Marj al-Zuhur to the occupied territories yesterday, and said: We believe that this represents a great victory by the deportees for the Palestinian people's cause.

Hamas Activist: Room for Fatah, 'Arafat Contacts

TA1712124593 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Dec 93 p 1

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpt] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the Gaza Strip believe there is room for contacts with the Fatah leadership and Yasir 'Arafat to examine the prospects of their integration into the peace negotiations. The activists estimate that the military level's violent operations will decrease as the peace process moves along.

A Gazan who has been active in Hamas political circles for several years told DAVAR last night that given the present circumstances, in which the whole world, including the Arab countries, supports the peace process, Hamas should lower the profile of its opposition to the process. "This reality calls for flexibility," the man said.

At the same time, the current framework of the Oslo agreement does not meet Hamas' demands, and that is why it cannot yet join the negotiations as an active party. "The agreement does not mention the future of the refugees, not even as people entitled to compensation for what they lost; it does not mention a Palestinian state or even self-determination. Furthermore, the fact that the settlements remain untouched makes it hard for us to join at the moment," the activist noted.

The man told DAVAR on several occasions recently that he thinks the Hamas and Fatah leaderships should enter negotiations. Joining the PLO, a goal sought by Hamas in recent years, is not all that relevant at the moment, the Hamas activist said, seeing that Yasir 'Arafat is the man calling the shots and that Fatah is the only movement in the field that counts. "The PLO is a body that has lost its importance under the present circumstances," he said.

Hamas activists asserted that they will not object to participating in general elections to the self-government council, when this is established. This position was recently voiced by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin in letters to his acquaintances and relatives in the Gaza Strip. Shaykh Yasin expressed the same view in talks held with DAVAR in his home prior to his arrest.

The Hamas activist believes a meeting between Hamas activists and Fatah leaders is possible, and he did not rule out the possibility that Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi may request permission to travel to Tunis to hold these contacts. "Al-Rantisi has in the past applied for permission to go to Tunis, but the military authorities refused him. I hear that he will be released on Sunday [19 December]. I am sure he will want to hold such contacts," the man said.

It has been reported in recent weeks that Norwegian diplomats have been holding contacts with Hamas and Fatah in a bid to create channels of communications between the two movements.

Asked about the activities of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads, the Hamas activist said he disagrees with the pardon granted to members of the Fatah Hawks. "Surrender is not an honorable action, and as far as I can see, the Fatah guys are not popular with the man in the street."

The Hamas activist would not comment directly on the question of whether Hamas' political leadership is expected to call on the military activists to lay down their arms, as Fatah called on the Hawks. At the same time, he said, "the political and military leaderships are in contact, and if progress is made in the peace process, this will definitely affect military activists." The Hamas activist added that, in any event, once the Israeli Army withdraws and the settlers no longer drive through Palestinian locations, "it will be difficult for them to operate." [passage omitted]

Hamas Spokesman on Plans, Settlers, Agreement

NC1712101893 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 13 Dec 93 p 7

[Text] In a telephone interview, Ibrahim Ghawshah, the official spokesman of Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], speaking in Jordan's capital Amman, told AL-'ARABI that Hamas' strategy in the seventh year of the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories is to intensify the jihad against the Zionist occupation and continue the intifadah that erupted initially to end the occupation. He stressed that the intifadah will continue as long as there are settlements in the occupied territories (120,000 settlers). He added: These Zionist settlers have now come out into the streets, started to burn houses, destroy vehicles, and halt labor activities. 'Arafat won't be able to find a solution to the challenge that the intifadah poses the occupation. This will make the Palestinians lose confidence in the agreement and, consequently, will serve Hamas' strategy.

Ghawshah added: Hamas is not acting to bring down the agreement. We are confident it will collapse soon, as everyone expects, because of the loopholes and obstacles inherent in it. The recent election in some establishments and universities proved there is a strong trend opposed to the agreement. There are differences within the PLO leadership in Tunis because of 'Arafat's dictatorship and these differences have affected the Fatah Movement inside the territories.

Answering a question on possible clashes between Hamas members and the Palestinian police force that is preparing to undertake its tasks in the occupied territories, Ghawshah stressed that Hamas' plans rule out a clash, noting that his organization will not oppose the agreement by force but will marshal all its forces against the occupation soldiers and the settlers' forces. He stressed that inter-Palestinian fighting is proscribed by Hamas.

Asked what he would do if the Palestinian police force protected the settlers, Ghawsah said: If 'Arafat decides to prevent the intifadah children and youth from acting against the occupation, he would be choosing to protect the Zionist entity. If he does decide to do so, he will only be another Antoine Lahd [commander of the pro-Israeli South Lebanese Army in south Lebanon] and he will be the biggest loser. He added: These Palestinian forces are the sons of the Palestinian people, who have spent money on them and trained them for the sake of the territories. They are patriotic and will not stoop to this level.

On the recent Hamas threat against the Israeli chief of staff, Ghawshah said: We are targeting the chief of staff because of his military position. Hamas issued its statement including this threat to show that it has the right to fight the officers and soldiers of the occupation who have no place on the land of Palestine.

On whether there is a deal between Hamas and 'Arafat to release [Hamas founder] Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, Ghawshah said: There is no deal and 'Arafat is only saying so to get the public on his side.

Concluding his statement to AL-'ARABI, the Hamas spokesman stressed his organization's refusal to participate in the election to the executive council of the Palestinian self-government in July 1994. He said: We reject the self-government and its mechanism and we will not participate in the election. Recent reportage concerned the organization's intention to participate in the election for a legislative council.

Dissident Fatah Claims Responsibility for Fires

JN1612210393 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1755 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The [dissident] Palestine National Liberation Movement (Fatah) the Uprising has issued a military statement, saying:

To uphold armed struggle as the major course to be pursued in our struggle against the Zionist entity, to confirm that our people's revolution continues to escalate until the liberation of the entire Palestinian national soil, and to show that traitors and fallen people cannot represent our Palestinian Arab people, the people who have offered countless martyrs and given birth to numberless revolutionaries from one generation to another, and in implementation of instructions, the al-'Asifah heroes who are affiliated with special cells operating in the occupied homeland have dealt a blow in Beersheba. They planted several highly effective incendiary charges in the industrial area of (Ramat Hofat) south of the occupied Palestinian city of Beersheba.

The charges went off at midnight on 15 December, causing huge fires at several plants and companies. This was accompanied by explosions heard from a far distance. Several convoys of fire-fighting crews from Beersheba and the industrial area hurried to the scene of the huge fires to control them. However, as of this morning, the fires had not been extinguished.

The enemy admitted that the operation took place after it had sustained several injuries.

With regard to the cells which carried out the operation, they managed to return safely to base.

Loss of Control of Palestinian Street Warned

TA1612193193 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 Dec 93 p 2

[By Da'ud Kuttab]

[Text] Jerusalem—The Palestinian deportee Jibril al-Rajub has said that if the agreement of principles between the PLO and Israel is not implemented on the new date of 22 December, there will be no Palestinian national force able to control the Palestinian street.

Al-Rajub, who is the Palestinian president's adviser on occupied territories affairs, explained that the agreement must be implemented immediately in order to help the Palestinian negotiators and the Palestinian leadership convince the Palestinian street that the agreement is the first station for the peace train.

He said that the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with Jerusalem as its capital, is the only guarantee for stability in the region.

On the Palestinian position in the talks, al-Rajub stressed that this position is based on three ingredients: First, the release of all prisoners regardless of their political affiliation; second, arranging the internal situation in accordance with the national interest as we see it through our reading of the agreement; and third, the international community's understanding of the economic and living conditions of the Palestinian people. This would create the climate necessary for Palestinians to consider the agreement a reality.

On rumors that Muhammad Nasr, head of the former Village Leagues, has been assigned with setting up the presidential security agency, al-Rajub said that Nasr has absolutely no connection with the PLO and he has not been assigned or authorized to form a presidential or any other security agency.

Al-Husayni Reportedly To Form Political Party

NC1712105593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Doha, 17 Dec (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, the head of the steering committee of the Palestinian team to the peace talks and Fatah Movement's official in charge of the Palestinian occupied territories, has said he will form a political party that will provide a substitute for the Fatah Movement.

In a statement in today's edition of the Qatari newspaper AL-SHARQ, al-Husayni said the move will be part of the multiparty system to emerge following the transitional stage and the formation of the Palestinian state.

In his statement, reported by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, al-Husayni stressed that the party's formation will be an important step. He added that the Palestinians are passing through a transitional phase. Al-Husayni said a political party should be formed as an alternative to the Fatah Movement and to avoid another Algerian scenario following the formation of the Palestinian state.

[In a related report, Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic on page 7 on 8 December adds the following: "Faysal al-Husayni's brother is preparing to announce a Palestinian political party, which he will name the Islamic Arab Party [al-hizb al-'arabi al-islami]. The new party will try to rally support among independent Islamists, that is, those who are not Hamas members but who oppose the PLO."]

'Abd-Rabbuh: Delay Called 'Double-Edged Weapon'

PM1612164493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Dec 93 p 5

[Rashid Khashanah report: "'Abd-Rabbuh Tells AL-HAYAH: Rabin Is Cutting Off the Branch On Which We Are Sitting Together"]

[Excerpts] Tunis—A well-informed Palestinian source has told AL-HAYAH in Tunis that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher expressed understanding of the Palestinians' needs in the next stage, especially with regard to equipping Palestinian police forces and preparing them to assume security tasks in Gaza and the Jericho area. [passage omitted]

In Tunis, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said yesterday that the time factor on which the Israeli Government is banking "is a double-edged weapon, as it will—directly or indirectly—lead to complications in the occupied areas and territories and to disrupting the situation in a manner that weakens the Yitzhaq Rabin government's credibility and commitment to the peace process, not only in the eyes of the Palestinians, but the other parties as well, at a time when Israel is preparing to resume the bilateral negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks."

He added that the positions we heard in Cairo do not reflect flexibility. In fact they indicate that Rabin's government—under the pretext of "security requirements," as it calls them—wants to turn the withdrawal from the Jericho area into a symbolic step not going beyond the city's boundaries and suburbs. It also wants to use the Israeli military presence inside the settlements, especially in the Gaza Strip, as a justification for a relatively bigger military presence.

'Abd-Rabbuh stressed that this option "torpedoes the concept of withdrawal stipulated in the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and renders it merely a redeployment formula for Israeli forces, denying the Palestinian authority real control of part of its territory at this stage as a starting point for extending its (the Palestinian authority) control over all the land in the coming months before the elections scheduled for next July."

'Abd-Rabbuh said: "Rabin is threatening not to adhere to the dates specified in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, hence he is cutting off the branch on which he and we are sitting together. As for the crossings and bridges with Egypt and Jordan, Israel's control of them means severing the Palestinian entity's links with its Arab world. Had we known that this was their (the Israelis') understanding of the agreement, we would not have agreed to sign it. We are part of the Arab world, not a Palestinian protectorate in the framework of Israeli control of our borders, territory, and major affairs."

He added: "There is a chance within the 10 [days] to conduct bilateral contacts—official and unofficial—between us and them to explore positions in search of the possibility of resolving the outstanding complex issues. Because without resolving these issues we cannot begin to implement any of the other points agreed upon."

Poll Shows Decline in Support for Accord

NC1612160593 Paris AFP in English 1421 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Dec 16 (AFP)—Palestinian backing for the PLO-Israel autonomy deal has fallen dramatically to just 42 percent, some 23 points down from when it was signed in September, according to a poll published Thursday [16 December].

The Centre for Palestine Research and Studies found 65 percent support for the agreement three months ago.

In the latest survey 38 percent said they disapproved of the agreement compared with 28 percent in the first poll which was released the day before the White House signing ceremony on September 13.

Twenty percent expressed no opinion compared with only seven percent in September.

The centre carried out the poll last Sunday, the day before Israel and the PLO decided to postpone the

withdrawal of troops from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, which was scheduled to start Monday.

"News of a likely delay...caused a great deal of frustration among Palestinians," the centre noted. "Palestinians are becoming more doubtful about their ability to achieve their rights under the present political circumstances."

However 66 percent of the 1,137 Palestinians questioned said they would vote in elections to a Palestinian autonomy council which are due to be held by July 13. But 22 percent said they would not vote.

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah movement remained by far the most popular and would win more than 42 percent of the vote, the poll found. That was slightly up on 41 percent in a survey carried out in mid-October.

Support for the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, which opposes the autonomy deal, dropped from 15 percent to 13 percent.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine would win almost 10 percent, Islamic Jihad three percent, the communist party two percent, Democratic Front one percent and 'Abd-Rabbuh's FIDA group one percent.

However "others" garnered 15 percent and independents nearly 14.

Fifty-one percent expect the Palestinian police to treat all Palestinians equally, but 31 percent expected the police to oppress the opposition.

And 53 percent wanted an independent Palestinian entity over 27 percent who preferred confederation with Jordan and seven percent for confederation with Jordan and Israel.

The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus three percent.

Algeria

Eighth Killing of Magistrate Since May Reported

LD1612153093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The chairman of the judicial council of the Tizi Ouzou court was assassinated today as he was leaving his home in Madania in Algiers. The late Gentri Seddik was 46 years old and the father of five children. He held several judicial posts, such as chairman of the court of Hussein Dey and of Algiers.

With today's assassination, the number of assassinated judicial officials rises to eight since last May.

AFP: Military May Be Tempted to 'Take Power'

NC1612135093 Paris AFP in English 1307 GMT 16 Dec 93

[By Hasse Zenati]

[Excerpts] Algiers, Dec 16 (AFP)—Political violence has escalated in Algeria, peaking in this week's slaughter of 12 foreign workers which the radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA) claimed responsibility for on Thursday just two weeks before the mandate of the top ruling body is due to expire. [passage omitted]

The targeting of foreigners follows the strategy set out by the fundamentalists in their clandestine publications: to isolate the authorities from their international partners.

The high state committee, or collegial presidency, is supposed to be replaced at the end of the month by a new national ruling body. It was set up in January last year to complete the mandate of Chedli Bendjedid when he resigned as president.

The impending changeover has sparked a power struggle between advocates and opponents of prolonging the committee's mandate.

The military is keeping a close eye on proceedings, already having called on politicians to find a solution to the crisis before the end of the year.

So far this month, according to an unofficial toll compiled by AFP, 112 people have been killed in the fighting between security forces and fundamentalists, including 53 security force members, 40 Islamic guerrillas and 19 civilians.

Some political movements are wondering about the possibility of the army being tempted to take power directly into its own hands so as to face up squarely to the spiralling unrest.

The military would prepare for new presidential and parliamentary elections after a transitional period of two to three years, it is surmised, in some political quarters, that scenario is even being openly canvassed.

General Lamine Zeroual, the defence-minister, has exhorted the politicians to work out an agreed solution to the political crisis which began when the general election of December 1991 was cancelled because the since banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had taken a commanding lead in the first round of voting.

The army has assigned three generals to represent it on a national dialogue commission formed to find that solution. No headway has been made to date because of uncertainty about how to involve the FIS.

The armed movements themselves have ruled out any truce, dialogue or reconciliation with the present powers-that-be, and have warned FIS politicians against any contacts with the authorities, under pain of "the worst of deaths."

Prime Minister Redha Malek has reaffirmed the government's determination to "eliminate terrorism and its causes."

FIS politicians for their part say a condition of their joining the talks has to be the release of FIS top leaders Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, who were jailed in 1991 for 12 years on state security charges.

The justice ministry meanwhile reported the murder here on Thursday of the presiding judge of the court in Tizi Ouzou by armed men.

Bentri Seddik, 46, was the seventh judge slain this year by suspected fundamentalists.

Justice Minister on Commitment to Human Rights

LD1612194693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Justice Minister Mohamed Teguia has stressed that the Algerian judiciary is committed to upholding human rights and pointed out that this principle will remain guaranteed and respected within the framework of the practice of justice by the judiciary in discharging its duties. Mohamed Teguia made this statement yesterday at a general assembly meeting of lawyers held in the Aurassi Hotel in in Algiers. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said To Ask Algeria To Host Libyan Opposition

NC1712091893 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Dec 93 p 7

[Text] The U.S. Administration has asked the Algerian authorities to accommodate [istiqbal] 400 armed Libyan oppositionists from the military wing of the Libyan Salvation Front. The Front, which opposes Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, is led by Colonel Khalifah Haftar.

Egypt

Mubarak on Terrorism, Topical Issues

NC1612132093 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 11 Dec 93 pp 3, 5

["Text" of President Husni Mubarak's interview with Ahmad al-Jarallah, chief editor of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, in Cairo, published under "an exclusive arrangement" with AL-SIYASAH; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Jarallah] Mr. President, how long will this problem continue in Egypt?

[Mubarak] You mean the issue of terrorism? I believe that is what you mean by your question. Anyway, we have grown used to confronting it. This issue has become international and is not affecting Egypt alone. The acts of terror that occur elsewhere exceed what takes place in Egypt. What I want to say is that these terrorists do not represent Islamic movements. I specifically mean those who actually carry out acts of terror. They gain financially from carrying out these criminal acts. They get paid in return for these acts. Naturally, those who carry out these acts are pleased to receive payments. They do these things thinking that they can evade responsibility. I want to say that these terrorists do not represent religion, its teachings, and its ethics. They use weapons in the name of religion. They trade in religion and abuse the great Islamic religion. Certain people encourage them, exploiting their need for money. I do not want to accuse certain states. The Prosecution Office is conducting interrogations and the results will be announced.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr. President, I gather from your explanation that terrorism is not worrying you?

[Mubarak] The issue of terrorism is not worrying us. Were we a dictatorship, no one would have heard anything about this issue. We are a state of institutions. If we were a dictatorial state, you would not have heard that anyone did anything. It is the democracy and freedom Egypt is practicing that enable the people to know everything.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr. President, when I looked at the faces of the individuals who have been detained for the attempt on the life of Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, they did not reflect piety, purity, or goodness. There is nothing in their faces suggesting faith.

[Mubarak] Naturally, they are not truly Islamic. They follow anyone who pays. As I said, terrorism has become the vogue of the age in many countries. Only recently terrorist groups attempted to bomb the entire Indian city of Bombay. Two days ago three bombs went off in three places in Austria. Similar incidents occurred in Italy. Even in the United States, the superpower, numerous acts of terror take place. Also, acts of terror occurred in Pakistan. I am only giving some examples to prove that we are not alone in facing this phenomenon. Fewer incidents occur in Egypt than elsewhere. U.S. papers say that 12,000 people were killed in one year as a result of acts of violence and terrorism, in addition to other incidents in which there where human casualties. You see the contrast between these huge numbers of victims of acts of violence and terrorism in the world and Egypt. By October 1993, 60 policemen, 66 citizens, and four foreigners were killed. Some 53 terrorists were killed because they resisted. These figures represent the victims who fell in one year. In addition, 289 people were injured and all received medical treatment, including the foreign tourists.

[Al-Jarallah] There are some people who see this phenomenon of terrorism as an attempt to hamper the Egyptian role, which recently emerged as part of an international role. An example of this is Egypt's role in the current peace arrangements with Israel.

[Mubarak] If this is the interpretation, then how do we explain the phenomenon of terrorism in other parts of the world, such as India, England, or the United States. Is it also to hamper peace arrangements with Israel?

No. I do not think so. True, there are certain groups that wish to worry Egypt internally. There are groups that want to influence its stances. However, I can safely claim that they are not capable of doing that, even if this is their objective. It is very difficult for them, to stop Egyptian diplomatic activity in the international arena.

I can safely say that the phenomenon of international terrorism, even if in some cases it has objectives, should not frighten or worry us. We should not give it dimensions that it does not have, so that it keeps its actual size.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr. President, there are also some people who rationalize the phenomenon of terrorism by claiming that it is a result of the pressures the economic reform processes have put on the people.

[Mubarak] Egypt is not a rich country. There is poverty in Egypt, like there is in other countries. Of course, the living conditions in Egypt cannot be compared with that of other countries. There are some countries facing huge and painful economic burdens. They cannot be compared with the burdens of Egypt.

Before starting the economic reform march in the seventies, we faced many problems and incidents including the events at the military technical college. We know that this course, the economic reform course, was adopted to improve the living conditions of the people, not to ruin their lives. Had we not proceeded with the economic reform process we would now have had to cope with very bad living conditions. Our factories would not have been able to operate; unemployment, inflation, and lack of foreign currency would have been widespread; which is the situation in many countries.

There are some people who attribute terrorist acts to the living conditions in Egypt. I believe this is wrong.

In my opinion, those who practice terrorism are a group of mercenaries who get their money easily by performing

acts of terrorism that they believe to be easy. They also think that they will not be discovered. But they do fall and get the punishment they deserve. Living conditions in Egypt are improving. The government has made efforts during the economic reform process. A comparison between the current economic situation and previous conditions shows that we are improving. Inflation has reached 30 percent at certain times in the past. Now it is less than 10 percent. Interest on the Egyptian pound has dropped from 24 percent to 14 percent. The budget deficit has decreased to 2.5 percent. Foreign currency is available and no longer a problem. We can even purchase all our needs from these currencies without any fears.

Of course, there are people who will try to link terrorism to living conditions. But the standard of living is improving now compared to what it was before.

If we look at Egypt's economic history, in particular the days before the revolution, we will find that the rich were a minority compared to the low-income people. However, there was no terrorism then.

Second, those who fight terrorism with us now are also low-income people. At times, they are people who live below the poverty line. As a result of their patriotic nobility, they guide the police to the terrorists' hideouts. They even chase and catch the terrorists for the police.

[Al-Jarallah] How do you view the terrorist activity and is it prevalent within Egyptian society?

[Mubarak] The number of terrorists is very limited. They are the victims of those who manipulate them from abroad, who exploit their desire to get easy money, and who do not tell them that they are performing a difficult task.

[Al-Jarallah] I deduce that some foreign quarters are benefiting from terrorist activity in Egypt. What prevents the identification and exposure of these quarters?

[Mubarak] The public prosecutor is investigating. I will leave the judiciary to identify these quarters after the investigations are over.

[Al-Jarallah] What is the purpose of the quarters who hire these people to carry out terrorist operations?

[Mubarak] They believe they can destabilize our country to divert Egypt from its tasks. Or perhaps they want to embark on a course of confrontation with Egypt. These quarters have bad internal circumstances. It seems that through these acts they want to divert attention from the bad conditions and from their own troubles toward other areas.

Regrettably, these quarters are facing bad economic conditions in their own countries. So they are resorting to an iron-fisted policy with their people; we don't do that.

[Al-Jarallah] What have these quarters gained from exporting terrorism?

[Mubarak] They believe they can spread instability in stable and important countries. They also believe this is the way to control the region.

[Al-Jarallah] Don't you believe that these quarters are paying to establish distinguished international relations with important countries?

[Mubarak] I do not think so. But they want to give the impression that they control the region. As for the countries you have in mind, although they appear to curse these states, they have relations with them.

For example, there are those who criticize our relations with Israel. They themselves have relations with Israel, perhaps even good relations, but they are undeclared.

[Al-Jarallah] Don't you believe these terrorists represent a religious movement and can be contained within a democratic framework by entering the democratic game in Egypt?

[Mubarak] They represent a terrorist cadre although they hide behind religion.

[Al-Jarallah] What is the secret of the accuracy of the terrorist operations?

[Mubarak] The terrorist operations in Egypt are neither as organized nor as accurate as you believe. Anyone can monitor people and their activity. Anyone can plant bombs. These operations need no great professionalism; the proof lies in their inaccuracy and haphazard nature.

All those who have carried out operations in Egypt have been arrested. I say that these operations lack professionalism and accuracy.

The only ones to benefit from these operations are those who live abroad, who obtain funds, and push these mercenaries to their miserable fate.

[Al-Jarallah] By adopting strict measures against terrorism, including transferring its cases to the military court, have you noticed any reduction in terrorist incidents or is the situation the same as at the beginning?

[Mubarak] The state will not be indifferent. We are implementing the law even in military courts. There is a Constitution in Egypt within which the military courts operate. These people should cease their operations. Of course, I am referring to any citizen who is normally the victim of those who ask him to carry out such criminal operations.

Every operation has been uncovered and the perpetrators captured. Risking lives, including the perpetrator's, is useless, because lives are more precious than all the money being paid to carry out such operations. Those abroad who plan such operations are not affected. The only ones who are affected are those who carry out the operations inside the country. The damage also extends to citizens.

As a state we can export such operations. We can do this, but this is not our style. Our people love peace, do not believe in exporting terrorism, and do not want others to export it to them. We are not contemplating this. Egypt has values and principles that it respects and abides by. Egypt is a civilized state governed by institutions, not gangs.

[Al-Jarallah] How do you assess the meeting of the Islamic National Front conference attended by over 30 fundamentalist organizations in Khartoum last Thursday?

[Mubarak] These are "fusuliyah" [divisive] movements, not fundamentalist [usuliyah], because they discuss terrorism, encourage terrorism, and threaten to use it. Consequently, this is not a religious issue, because religion is advice, not terrorizing people.

In my opinion, they want to create a leadership through such conferences to give the impression that they can act and interact with the masses. But this no longer works. They must attend to their own countries and not think of raising the spear of terrorism through religion to give the impression that there is a leadership; no such leadership exists.

Anyone seeking international leadership must first pay attention to his people, their livelihood, and stability. What follows is something else. But it seems that these individuals want to overlook their situations, their positions, and the realities in their countries.

According to many Arab and international examples and models, those who looked for international leadership before paying attention to their countries have fallen.

Some are enticed by international leadership and in their endeavor to seek it, they repress their countries. I always say that attending to the people's interests at home is what matters. To be strong abroad, you must be strong at home. If you want to be an important statesman in foreign relations, you must have a stable position in internal relations.

[Al-Jarallah] In an atmosphere of terrorist incidents, how do the people with an economic interest in what is happening react? Do you in the leadership feel any pressure from parties whose interests are harmed by these incidents to get tougher with terrorists?

[Mubarak] The measures we take are those that my conscience tells me are the ones to take. They are appropriate and fair, which, I believe, is in the interest of our people in Egypt. All these measures are taken within the law. We are a constitutional state and we must always learn to respect the Constitution and the law. This means that whoever commits an offense must be punished in accordance with the law. The law is strict enough, particularly the laws dealing with consolidating security and stability. I always like to operate within the law. The terrorist actions, no matter how long they may last, will not scare us. This does not mean that we are faulting the law or the Constitution. I believe that through our legal and constitutional institutions, we can handle this terrorism. We do not want to resort to other measures beyond the system of these institutions, because we are not and will not be a dictatorship.

[Al-Jarallah] You say you are ready to handle this terrorism no matter how long it takes. How long do you think it will take to fully control this terrorism?

[Mubarak] Egypt is not the only country facing such terrorist incidents. I could say that most countries, even those technically advanced in combating crime and terrorism, have become the scene of daily incidents. But this has not affected us or our normal life. Each country deals with these things according to the laws it applies. Thus, I say that these incidents exist everywhere.

[Al-Jarallah] If they exist everywhere, why is only Egypt mentioned in this regard?

[Mubarak] I believe it's because Egypt is a big and influential country in the region. Some thought they could influence it or change things in it. The media exaggerates the terrorist operations, but in an atmosphere of democracy and freedom of opinion, we cannot but accept this. I believe that the people here are getting used to this. Many of the foreign guests tell me that what is written is different from the reality. As for controlling these operations, the best example of this is that all the perpetrators have been arrested.

[Al-Jarallah] What is terrorism's impact on the economy? Do you feel a kind of economic regression in this atmosphere?

[Mubarak] Tourism has been affected temporarily. But our economy is continuing its course and has not been affected. The economy is stable. The people are accustomed to this. They realize that terrorism has no drastic effect, is under control, and will not last long because ultimately it can't fight the state and the people.

Less happens here than in other countries. International tourism companies have resumed dealing with us after visiting our country and ascertaining that things are not as hellish as the media describe.

I believe the media have blown events out of proportion. Egypt is a democratic and influential state in the region. Its influence has been doubled by its role in the Gulf war. The world's media appear to be heeding this role. The important thing is that terrorism is no longer on a huge scale or effective.

One major tourism company brought journalists to Egypt especially to tell them: This is Egypt. What happens here is not as the media describe.

[Al-Jarallah] Let us return to the economy. At the beginning of the terrorist operations, you would say that Egypt lost $2 billion of tourism income. Has the figure increased or has Egypt recovered?

[Mubarak] Now there is no great effect on revenue. The terrorist operations started immediately after the Gulf war. Part of the impact was due to the circumstances of war, not to terrorism. This does not mean terrorism didn't have an effect at first. Now it has no major effect.

Following up tourism in Egypt, I can see that the occupancy rate in tourist villages is almost 100 percent. This is because the people have become used to this temporary terrorism and because the perpetrators of terrorist acts are immediately apprehended.

I believe that the media are exaggerating things less, especially, as I have stated, since what happens here cannot be compared with what happens elsewhere. Egypt is an ancient country and terrorism cannot affect it or its constitutional establishment and leadership. Naturally, our view of previous media exaggeration was that it represented surprise about this new and sudden phenomenon in Egyptian society—that of the terrorism exported to us.

There are those who thought we could not deal with terrorism. Once they found out we could—firmly and strongly—they changed their media's tone. Previously, they believed the terrorists could market their product in Egyptian society.

[Al-Jarallah] How do you view the Egyptian opposition's cooperation with the government in confronting terrorism?

[Mubarak] All the Egyptian people are cooperating with us in fighting terrorism. I cannot pinpoint a specific party. Everybody supports the fight against terrorism because terrorism has affected every section of the people. It has affected their lives and livelihood. We are cooperating as Egyptians, not as a government and opposition. All the people are cooperating, because if terrorism were to achieve its goals, it would affect all the people, harm the Egyptian people, economy, and stability, and undermine the requirements for a stable homeland.

I also say that all the Egyptian people are helping to fight the terrorist elements and arrest them. In the recent operation that targeted Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, many of the culprits were identified by ordinary people.

This means that the Egyptian public supports the fight against terrorism and has done so from the beginning. It has imposed its view on the opposition parties and the government that this phenomenon must be eliminated.

What pleases us most is that every day we witness important and appreciated cooperation from the Egyptian people in fighting terrorism such that we sometimes intervene to save the terrorist elements from citizens' hands. If we leave these terrorists to the citizens, they would slaughter them in revenge. We must stop them from doing so because we believe in sending these terrorists to court.

[Al-Jarallah] How did you receive the news of the attack on Dr. 'Atif Sidqi?

[Mubarak] I was performing my daily work when I was informed of the incident. Afterward, he spoke to me and explained to me what happened.

[Al-Jarallah] Some whisper that the president is an honest and patriotic personality, but his clique [bitanatuh] isn't. Do you have a clique?

[Mubarak, laughing] This is the talk of the week. I do not have a clique and know nothing about a clique. My relations, as a president, with the key authority figures stem from the principle of direct instruction. I have more than enough time to follow up Egyptian affairs, even to the last detail. As for official instructions, there are no mediators, because instructions are given directly, especially in that which relates to my powers as president. Naturally, there are those who create a particular issue, whether it is over a difference in views or otherwise, in which case we hear his justifications. I believe that the word clique suits a man who lives in an ivory tower and who does not get directly involved in the people's affairs or domestic issues. But we are developing countries, not superpowers. I believe the role of leaders in developing societies is to be directly acquainted with their people's domestic affairs, even down to the finest detail. I also believe that the use of the word "clique" is a political method used by groups that think they can isolate the head of state from his state bodies. By so doing, they seek to cast doubt on these bodies to make changes in the state so that the state will enter a constant turmoil that cannot provide stability. I make changes when I feel that the person holding a particular position is using his position or title for personal affairs. In that case, his time is up and he is asked to leave. He may even be punished. As for my dealing with the government apparatus, this is done through direct contacts with the ministers; this is an established tradition. The reason for this is to make sure that instructions are clear, especially concerning follow-up work to make improvements in areas that need to be improved, such as economic affairs, housing, and services. The people who work with me know their areas of specialization and their limits and don't exceed them. I do not get involved in the game of change.

[Al-Jarallah] Some politicians in Egypt say the president keeps any official who is criticized. Is this correct?

[Mubarak] If the official is not right and he disagrees with the person criticizing him, then the disagreement becomes a public affair. I do not necessarily wait for criticism to assess an official's performance. With daily follow-up, we watch officials' performance and if we see any misconduct we immediately ask the official to vacate his position. But in this case, the criticism stems primarily from a conflict of interests. If the official is right, I keep my confidence in him so that I do not get into the whirlpool of change. Egypt has 60 million people; I cannot take the view of each individual as valid. Besides,

not everything that is said in every case must be true. Direct observation of an official is high on our list of considerations; it need not be the result of criticism or someone's disagreement with an official.

[Al-Jarallah] Does your work permit you to look at all the newspapers?

[Mubarak] Yes. I follow all the national and party newspapers. I inquire about and examine every issue published in the press. I sometimes feel that some reports are inaccurate or are exaggerated. I only hope that journalists always seek accuracy in their reports, because this will win them respect. In my view, a journalist loses his credibility when he publishes inaccurate reports. I do not want any journalist to lose his credibility.

Some newspapers sometimes publish inaccurate or even imaginary reports, which costs these newspapers their credibility. What is written sometimes, even though it may be defective, is under control. Usually, such reports are rewritten or amended.

Looking at the daily activity of the press, I hope no newspaper will lose its credibility in the atmosphere of freedom afforded it.

[Al-Jarallah] There is a question to which it is said you are particularly sensitive. I hope you will allow me to ask it. You have not appointed a vice president, yet you are in your third term of office. Why?

[Mubarak] I will answer directly. The Egyptian Constitution does not bind me to appoint a vice president. There are several important and civilized states that have no vice president. Even in the United States, the superpower, power is in the hands of the president, not the vice president. I do not know why insistence on this question continues. Do we really want such a post or it is just a formality that must be completed?

It is a strange coincidence that when people are asking about the vice president, others are sending me letters asking me not to appoint a vice president because the government is not a succession.

The Constitution does not bind me to appoint a vice president, although it gives me the option. I repeat: When I find it necessary, I will not hesitate.

The Egyptian Constitution guarantees the transfer of power in the absence of the president; the vice president does not necessarily become president. The speaker of the People's Assembly assumes power in the absence of the president. If there is no People's Assembly, the chairman of the Constitutional Court assumes power. This is what happened when President al-Sadat died. I was vice president. The People's Assembly speaker assumed power until a new president was elected.

The Constitution does not rule out the appointment of vice presidents and presidential assistants. But this does not mean power will be transferred to them in the absence of the president. It is an optional process. Article 83 of the Constitution is clear on the transfer of power. The vice president in Egypt receives no authority, except if the president authorizes it if he is absent abroad.

[Al-Jarallah] Before the new Cabinet was formed, there was a feeling that many ministers and perhaps the prime minister himself should be replaced. But no important changes have been made in the new Cabinet. What is Your Excellency's view on this?

[Mubarak] Concrete changes in the cabinets of any state only take place when a new president takes over. For us in Egypt, we have our own special circumstances, such as tackling the economy, which, as we said before, has improved tremendously. We have an interlinked plan that we are trying to implement. When we introduce a new government and new ministers, we waste much time until the ministers adapt to the stages and course of the plan. Bringing in new people might also affect the course of these programs, which were handled by people who have proved their capability.

This, in my opinion, is a waste of time. It might cause harm. We are pursuing an economic plan that we believe is good. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi made strenuous efforts in this regard, proving the positive impact of this plan. We cannot make personnel changes that could affect this course.

Of course, some people have a different opinion. We listen to them, but some of these opinions might not suit our policy. The economic reform was carried out in a way that would not put a burden on the people.

There are also some privileges that people used to get; some of these were wrong. But they could not be suspended abruptly. They were dealt with gradually. This is especially true of privileges requiring cancellation under the economic reform plan, such as the subsidies issue. Such privileges were dealt with in doses acceptable to the people, who were compensated.

This is why I say it is wrong to replace a government completely in the middle of a specific program linked with a specific period. We are addressing important economic issues in our country and would not like to get involved in continuous changes simply to satisfy individuals.

Some governmental changes in Egyptian political history had a bad effect. Dramatic changes in state organs are a burden on the economy and its reform programs.

As for 'Atif Sidqi's government, it came in at a difficult time and proved its effectiveness well. The man is trying hard to achieve the goals that we think the Egyptian economy needs. Of course, some discuss the desire for change because they dream of getting the privileges associated with these posts. I will not engage in this game. Some governments in progressive states continue for long periods. Margaret Thatcher remained in office for 14 years. But in Egyptian history we find 108 governments in 100 years. You will find that the most

productive government was the longest serving one; it served, I think, for 12 years.

Under 'Atif Sidqi's government, changes were made in some positions, but they were not major changes. I always ask: How can a government work if it knows it will not be in office over a year? Thatcher remained for 14 years. In Germany, the same government was in power for a long time. Even in the United States, when a president is reelected, the Cabinet remains almost the same, except for minor changes. This is why I say that it seems that those who discuss the need for change want to be appointed ministers themselves.

[Al-Jarallah] From your remarks I understand that the economy is faring well and that the recent terrorist operations have not affected it. Is that so?

[Mubarak] Yes. The budget deficit was once 30 percent, now it has gone down to 2.5 percent. Inflation was 30 percent, now it is under 10 percent. Because of a shortage of hard currency, we couldn't buy food. But in recent years, we did not suffer this problem. The interest rate once reached 22 percent, now it is 14 percent. Now we pay for our needs in foreign currency. Our economy has greatly improved and terrorism has failed to affect our foreign investments, certainly not recently. Most industrial investment in the private sector is owned by Egyptians. Arab and Gulf investments are also growing. True, some of them stopped in the first months of the terrorist incidents, but they are now back to normal. We treat foreign investors favorably and always listen to their complaints. If the complaints are valid, we do something about them, and if they are not, we explain our views on the issue.

[Al-Jarallah] How are Egypt's relations with Washington now?

[Mubarak] Stable and good.

[Al-Jarallah] But some accuse the United States of being behind the terrorist operations in Egypt as part of a strategy to divide the spheres of influence to push Egypt away from the Middle East's sphere to Africa's.

[Mubarak] Such analyses and speculation are easy and anyone can say anything. We hear things, but we can stop no one from thinking the wrong way.

[Al-Jarallah] How are your relations with Sudan following recent reports about the Hala'ib issue?

[Mubarak] I believe that when the Sudanese officials discuss any internal problem they start to talk about differences with Egypt. This kind of talk occurs now and then. As for Hala'ib, we have an agreement that delineated sovereignty at the 22d parallel. We are concerned with no other talk. There are 4 million Sudanese nationals in Egypt. We are not the ones who incite problems with the neighbor, because it is our policy to maintain good relations with any neighbor.

[Al-Jarallah] What about the Gaza-Jericho Agreement? Will it be implemented or will it stumble?

[Mubarak] It will be implemented. It is the fruit of extremely difficult negotiations. We do not expect to solve a 45-year-old problem in one or two sessions. The solution must face some problems.

[Al-Jarallah] Did you try to set up a meeting between President al-Asad and U.S. President Clinton?

[Mubarak] Yes. It was on my initiative during my meeting with U.S. President Clinton when I recently visited Washington. I proposed that a meeting be arranged with President al-Asad to achieve progress in the peace talks. A direct dialogue between the two will be useful. The U.S. President was convinced about my viewpoint.

[Al-Jarallah] What about President al-Asad?

[Mubarak] On my way back from the United States I stopped over in Syria. I raised the issue with President al-Asad and we discussed my proposal and its advantages. My proposal was accepted by the two presidents and I hope their meeting will produce fruitful results.

[Al-Jarallah] King Husayn recently visited Egypt. I believe this is his first visit since the Gulf war. Did he bring anything that insinuates differences with the PLO or Syria?

[Mubarak] King Husayn visited us after the earthquake [October 1992], but it was a quick courtesy visit. His last visit does not mean there are no differences in views. We are concerned with the peace process and we are also concerned that this process is affected by no one. We are in a position to contact Syria, Jordan, the PLO, and Israel. We believe no one should stop the peace process.

[Al-Jarallah] The Yemenis also visited Cairo. What did they want?

[Mubarak] We discussed events in Yemen. They briefed me on the scale of the events. I learned that King Husayn extended an invitation to the two sides involved in the crisis.

[Al-Jarallah] Political sources say Egypt is holding secret contacts with Iraq. Can you tell us about what and why?

[Mubarak] We have no secret contacts with Iraq. A secret meeting is one the details of which are not published. We have no contacts with Iraq. We wish no evil to anyone and we were the first to extend advice to Iraq before the Gulf war. Our advice was known and declared and we extended it because we knew what the results would be.

Egypt was farsighted. In the Arab summit, we said: If they want an Arab solution, then let them get it instead of us waiting for an international solution. An international solution was indeed imposed on us. Had we used

security bodies and some foreign countries on the terrorist elements who fled to these countries. He added that contacts are continuing to discuss the means of extraditing these elements to Egypt. He noted that this will be done in secret to protect the public interest.

Answering a question on the security organs' recent efforts to arrest terrorist elements, particularly in Upper Egypt, the interior minister said that most of the terrorist cases in Upper Egypt's governorates have been closed. He noted that intensive security campaigns are continuing to apprehend and eliminate the fugitive elements.

In statements he made following the graduation ceremony for the foundation unit involved in antinarcotics operations, the minister said that large amounts of money have been allocated for payment as a reward to citizens who give accurate information leading to the arrest of any of the dangerous terrorist elements or that pinpoints their dens or places of residence. He added that the financial reward will be assessed according to the information received from the citizens. He added that the value of the reward will be between 50,000 and 100,000 Egyptian pounds. He stressed that any information given by any citizen about these elements or the whereabouts of their dens will be dealt with confidentially.

The interior minister categorically denied reports that there are armed militias in Upper Egypt, stressing that every sector of the police organs can stage a firm and decisive confrontation and eliminate these terrorist elements.

Nigeria's Babangida Reportedly Seeks Asylum

NC1712102093 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Dec 93 p 7

[From the "Political Week" section]

[Text] Political Week has learned that former Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida has decided to stay permanently in Egypt. The former Nigerian president arrived in Cairo with members of his family last week and met on Sunday [5 December] with President Mubarak. Babangida submitted an official request expressing his desire to stay permanently in Egypt.

[In a related report, Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic on its front page on 12 December adds the following: "The Nigerian Embassy in Cairo yesterday denied reports that former Nigerian President General Ibrahim Babangida requested political asylum in Egypt.

["The Nigerian charge d'affaires said Babangida is visiting Egypt until 28 December. Spokesmen at the Egyptian Presidential Office and Foreign Ministry denied any knowledge of Babangida's asylum request."]

Shaykh Calls Travel to Jerusalem 'Impermissible'

NC1712091493 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] The great Islamic caller Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali has stated that travel to the holy places in occupied Palestine under the circumstances is not allowed. He stressed that such visits are impermissible unless the aim is to volunteer to fight the Jews.

At a ceremony held by the Doctors Association on the seventh anniversary of the Palestinian intifadah, al-Ghazali said: I refuse to visit Jerusalem taking an Israeli El Al plane. I refuse to stay in Zionist hotels. I cannot visit the al-Aqsa Mosque under the circumstances.

Asked about trips to Jerusalem organized by tourist companies, Shaykh al-Ghazali said: The Zionists should first allow the Palestinians to visit the holy al-Aqsa and Jerusalem instead of killing them.

Libya

Al-Muntasir Holds Talks With Iran's Velayati

LD1612200493 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation ['Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir] held a meeting this evening in Tripoli with brother 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the [Islamic] Republic of Iran who is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah. During the meeting, they discussed ways of boosting and strengthening cooperation in various domains between the Great Jamahiriyah and Iran.

'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of the Republic of Iran, arrived earlier this evening in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Further on Talks

LD1612222393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, heading a senior political delegation arrived in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, Thursday afternoon for an official visit. Mr. Velayati, who is visiting this country on an invitation from 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, held his first round of talks with his Libyan counterpart Thursday night and discussed bilateral relations, regional conditions, and issues of the Islamic world.

In this round of talks al-Muntasir thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its wise world policies and the effective role of our country in establishing peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region. He then emphasized the need to strengthen the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] in its stance against the plots of world arrogance in the various parts of the world, including the Persian Gulf.

He said the silence of the world on the crimes committed in Islamic countries, including Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, was a plot, and pointing to the Palestinian

issue, he added: It is necessary to stand against those who are selling Palestine by agreeing to shameful deals. Referring to the apostate Rushdie, he condemned the welcome given by some western leaders to an author who has insulted sacred Islamic values.

In turn Mr. Velayati analyzed the world situation after the fall of communism and the end of the cold war. He said: Presently the Islamic world is a target of plots by some western countries which want to impose their hegemony over the world. He said the only way of combating cultural, political, and military offensives against the Islamic world is the unity of Islamic countries and steadfastness of Muslims.

Pointing to the various plots against Islamic countries, including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, and some other parts of the world, he expressed the hope that Islamic countries will be able to use all their potentials within the context of the ICO to unite the world of Islam and solve existing problems and achieve progress and development. In his two-day visit Mr. Velayati will meet with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and some other senior officials of this country, and will discuss bilateral relations and other important regional issues and other issues of interest to the both sides. Mr. Velayati had arrived in Tripoli after ending his visit to Syria where he was officially seen off by the Syrian foreign minister.

Family of Missing Libyan Appeals to 'Arafat, UN

PM1412165093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Dec 93 p 1

['Ali al-Salih report: "Al-Kikhya's Family Appeals to 'Arafat, Butrus-Ghali To Intervene"]

[Excerpt] London—A Libyan source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the family of Mansur al-Kikhya, who disappeared in Cairo on Friday, has asked Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali to intervene to uncover his whereabouts.

Amnesty International has expressed its concern over the disappearance of al-Kikhya, secretary general of the Libyan National Alliance opposed to President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's regime, and so has Muhammad Fayiq, secretary general of the Arab Human Rights Organization.

The Egyptian Interior Ministry declined to comment on the issue.

Al-Kikhya disappeared on 11 December in Cairo, where he was taking part in the conference organized by the organization's secretariat. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Garang Reportedly Accused of Corruption

EA1612165293 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Differences have increased inside the rebel movement. In Garang's faction, the faction's economic administration office, in a statement issued in Nairobi yesterday, openly charged the rebel Garang with financing his family's personal expenditures and transferring funds of the movement for his personal use.

The statement revealed that thousands of dollars from the movement's account were transferred to his family's account, in addition to enormous sums from the foreign assistance, which he also transferred to his own personal account.

The economic administration office of the rebel Garang's faction accused Garang of dishonesty and excessive enrichment at the expense of the sons of the South, and of working for personal gain within a tribal framework.

Minister Leaves for Uganda With Museveni Message

EA1512163093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, minister of the office of federal administration, and a delegation accompanying him have left for Kampala to deliver a letter from Lieutenant General al-Bashir to Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. Earlier, 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad delivered a similar letter to Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi from Lieutenant General al-Bashir.

'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, the envoy of the president of the republic to the heads of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] states concerned with the initiative for solving the problem in the south of the country, said in a press statement that he had transmitted to the Kenyan president the government's presentation on ways of solving the problem of the South. He said he had explained to President Moi the need for the IGADD states to perform an important role in solving the issue, following confirmation that foreign intervention could not lead to peaceful solutions but could only have valueless results.

Government Begins Consultations With Ethiopia

EA1512201693 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] The joint Sudanese-Ethiopian ministerial committee started its deliberations this morning in Khartoum. In a statement to the press, Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih said the current session of the ministerial committee will review the progress of

implementing joint agreements and protocols and means of consolidating cooperation between Sudan and Ethiopia. Abu-Salih noted that the committee is scheduled to meet at the experts' level as of today, Wednesday 15th December, until 18th December, and at the ministerial level from 20th to 22nd December. The ministerial sessions will cover aspects of socioeconomic, cultural and political issues.

Kuwait

Assembly Approves Law on Allowing Search for Arms

PM1612140893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Dec 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "National Assembly Approves Law on Searching for Arms in Kuwaiti Homes, After Suspending It in Last Week's Session"]

[Text] Kuwait, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Kuwaiti National Assembly yesterday approved decree No. 94 concerning searching for and seizing banned arms, ammunitions, and explosives.

The National Assembly suspended the search measures decree in the session held last week, as the number of votes required were not secured. But after a second ballot in yesterday's session, 26 deputies voted for the decree. Sixteen abstained, and one deputy voted against it. Including Cabinet members, 43 deputies attended the session.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah expressed his satisfaction with the decision. He pointed out that this will help the Interior Ministry to carry out its security duties and work to provide security for Kuwaiti society and hence destroy what the Iraqi enemy left behind.

Minister al-Hamud said that the deadline specified in the law to conduct the search measures will end in September 1994, but as security organs will not be able to complete the search operation in this period, he will ask National Assembly deputies to agree to allow the deadline to be extended for another three years in order to complete the mission and rid Kuwait of the arms and ammunitions posing a threat to internal security.

Yemen

Basindwah Denies External Forces Behind Crisis

JN1612203693 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 14 Dec 93 pp 1, 29

[Report by Isma'il al-Shammari in Doha, Ahmad al-Jabli in Sanaa, and combined agency dispatches]

[Excerpt] Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah has stated that the Yemeni people will not allow any encroachment on their unity and will reject all forms of federalism or secession because they consider unity their greatest and most important achievement.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ITTIHAD in Doha, Basindwah denied that any external forces stand behind the crisis in his country. He also denied that the Yemeni defense minister has resigned. He said that the political crisis in Yemen is partly caused by the general election results which perhaps did not satisfy some. He said that the crisis negatively affected the internal conditions in Yemen and the public opinion abroad and said: "We thank all the brothers who offered to mediate to solve the crisis."

Basindwah said that Yemen's ties with all the GCC states are good, with the exception of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Ministry Denies Knowing of Arms Shipment to Aden

PM1612141093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Dec 93 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Haydari, Faysal Makram, and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah: "Sources in Aden Say Arms and Ammunition Shipment Has Been Unloaded There"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa, Aden—Military sources in Yemen yesterday said that "quantities of arms and ammunition were unloaded in the military port of al-Ma'la, Aden, at dawn yesterday, Monday, from a Djibouti ship arriving to Aden through the Suez Canal."

The sources stated that "soldiers from the armed forces in what used to be known as south Yemen unloaded the ship and moved the shipment from the port to the arms deports in Jabal Hadid by routes which passed through the main street under the cover of darkness."

A Yemeni Defense Ministry official told AL-HAYAH yesterday that "the ministry has no knowledge of any arms shipment. Nevertheless, anything is possible in view of the political crisis the country is experiencing." [passage omitted]

Commanders Briefed on Efforts To Remove Tension

JN1612182993 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Chief of Staff brother Staff Brigadier General 'Aba-al-Malik al-Sayyani has chaired an expanded meeting at the Defense Ministry building. The meeting was attended by the assistant chiefs of staff, departments' chiefs, and senior military commanders of the Yemeni Armed Forces. The meeting was devoted to discussing the results of efforts of the military committee set up by the Council of Ministers to remove the military tension that surfaced at some military units in the past few weeks.

At the beginning of the meeting, the brother chief of staff indicated that the meeting falls within the framework of the tasks of the military committee, which briefed the conferees on the results of its mission. During the meeting, participants listened to a report [word indistinct] on the committee's efforts. The report was read out by brother Staff Colonel 'Ali (?Muhafarah), assistant chief of staff for operations affairs and head of the committee. He touched on the forms of support that the

committee received from the political leadership, represented by brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, as well as the Defense Ministry leadership, represented by the brother defense minister and the chief of staff. The report indicated the profound national awareness shown by the fighters' behavior and practices, the best expression of the Yemeni people's resolve to adhere to their unity and to resolve all political differences on the table of serious, peaceful, and brotherly dialogue and [words indistinct].

The committee also praised the profound cooperation shown by the commanders of the units and formations that it had visited. The committee noted that those commanders offered the best assistance to remove all manifestations of tension [words indistinct] and return these units to the situation that prevailed before the crisis.

The brother chief of staff, in his own name and on behalf of the Defense Ministry leadership, thanked the military committee for its efforts to make its mission successful. In his remarks, he urged all fighters—commanders, officers, and other ranks—to derive inspiration from the glorious history of Yemen. He noted that throughout its history, the Armed Forces proved to be a tool to defend the people's gains, maintain their unity, and protect national sovereignty. He urged everyone to show [word indistinct] national vigilance.

In their remarks, the military commanders affirmed that the Yemeni Armed Forces are a (?peaceful) defensive institution entrusted with defending the constitutional legitimacy and the national democratic system in the Republic of Yemen. They stressed that the Armed Forces must remain away from [word indistinct] of political parties.

Salih Sends Condolences to Former Prime Minister

JN1612152093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Dec 93

["Text" of a cable of condolences from Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, former president of the former Peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Brother, Struggler President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, former secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, may God bless you.

With extreme sorrow and grief we received the news of the assassination of your nephew, the young Hadi Ahmad Nasir Muhammad, at the vicious hands of treachery, which have of late escalated their evil deeds against the elite youths of our land and the unity and cohesion of our people.

The bullets of treachery that penetrated the martyr's body were fired by sinful hands that in the first place targeted the honorable role which you recorded in the annals of sacrifice for the sake of the homeland, its unity, and the future of its children.

While deploring this grotesque and treacherous murderous act, we express to you and through you to the entire family of the martyr our warm condolences. We also send condolences to our Yemeni people on the great loss of one of its capable national cadres. We are confident that such ignominious acts will not weaken the determination of the strugglers or subdue them but will rather enhance the strength of their bold national aims at this stage when the homeland is in dire need of unity of ranks of its sincere sons to protect its gains and confront the fierce onslaught led by the forces that are hostile to its unity and democratic path.

Please accept our sincerest condolences which we also send to the martyr's family. We pray God to make paradise his abode where he will be ranked among the pious martyrs. We are from God and to him we shall return.

[Signed] Your brother, Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

Hadhramaut To Hold Separate Local Elections

PM1612120693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Dec 93 pp 1, 4

[Lutfi Shatarah and Hamud Munsir report: "In Clear Warning to Yemeni Leadership, Hadhramaut Intends To Hold Separate Local Elections"]

[Excerpt] Aden, Sanaa—In a clear warning to the conflicting ruling coalition parties in Yemen, and in a development confirming the Hadhramaut people's efforts to take control of matters in the governorate away from the administration of the central authority in Sanaa, the higher committee elected by the national meeting of the people of Hadhramaut announced yesterday its initiative to hold local elections to transfer many of the financial and administrative powers to administrative units in the governorate, cities, and districts.

The committee, which was elected at the meeting held by the people of Hadhramaut in al-Mukalla last week and which is headed by Brigadier Khalid Abu-Bakr Baras, urged that the experience of the last three and a half years be comprehensively reviewed and all the proposed options and formulas discussed.

The committee said that excessive centralism is the cause of most problems in the country. It called for the swift breakup of centralism in order to tackle the crisis and alleviate citizens' suffering. [passage omitted]

Iraq Said Ready To Resolve Kuwaiti POW Issue

NC1712123793 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 13 Dec 93 p 2

[Text] During his meeting with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday, Nabil Najm, Iraq's representative to the Arab League, has affirmed that Baghdad is ready to cooperate with any Arab initiative to close the file of the Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq.

The meeting was held at the request of the Iraqi envoy.

Saddam Chairs Revolution Command Council Meeting

JN1612183193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1531 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting of the Revolution Command Council.

The meeting was attended by National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and Presidential Office Chief Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi.

INA Reports Attack on Bus Carrying MKO Members

JN1612145493 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 16, INA—Two R.P.G shells was fired on Wednesday on a bus carrying 50 elements of the opposition Iranian Mujahidin Khalq Organization in Baghdad, but the two shells failed to pinpoint the target.

In a statement here, the Mujahidin Organization accused pro-Iran agents of perpetrating this aggressive act.

MKO Urges Trial of Attackers

NC1612155093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The Iranian organization Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO], which is based in Baghdad, has said that a bus carrying 50 of its members was shelled by two artillery missiles in the center of Baghdad yesterday. It accused Iranian agents of organizing the event. The statement issued by the organization said two anti-armor shells targeted the truck in the district of Qanat al-Jaysh in Baghdad yesterday morning. No one was injured. The statement accused what it called the servants of the Iranian regime of carrying out the operation and asked Saddam's regime to arrest and try the perpetrators.

Government Attacks, Rebel Operations Reported

NC1612173193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] As part of their ongoing acts of aggression against the southern marshlands, the forces of tyrant Saddam last week shelled the villages of (Al 'Abd 'Awn) and (Al Bushamah), in al-Hammar subdistrict in al-Nasiriyah marshes with large-caliber artillery and mortars. Our sources said that a large number of reed houses were destroyed and burned, and 10 women and children were seriously wounded.

Retaliating against the tyrant forces' oppression and brutal shelling, the Islamic resistance forces carried out a heroic deterrent operation the next day. They raided al-Hammar subdistrict and attacked the regime's security, military, and party offices there. Our sources stressed that the resistance fighters reached their targets and dealt crushing blows in which dozens of the regime's agents were killed or wounded and the regime's dens were burned. Our sources said that the tyrant's forces and all their security and party agencies were forced to leave al-Hammar under fire from the Islamic resistance and to flee to Suq al-Shuyukh district.

It should be noted that the tyrant Saddam's regime is now intensifying its military presence in the southern marshes. Our sources monitored the movements of the Republican Guards there, and information has been leaked that the regime is preparing for major attacks in the marshes of al-Nasiriyah Governorate.

In another operation, an Islamic resistance artillery unit last week dealt devastating blows to the tyrant Saddam's forces deployed in al-Tar subdistrict, Suq al-Shuyukh district, in the marshes of al-Nasiriyah Governorate. This was stressed by our sources in the south, which added that the Islamic resistance targeted the command of the 3d Regiment of Brigade 33 of the 19th Division. The sources said that the command was destroyed, and the regime forces suffered a number of human and material losses. Our sources stressed that the Islamic resistance unit also directed its fire toward the dens of the security and party services in the above-mentioned district, inflicting heavy losses on them and their staff.

Meanwhile, heroic mujahidin operations against the agents and oppressive institutions of the Saddam regime have escalated, causing further confusion among them. Sources of the popular Islamic resistance said that, during the last 10 days of November, the al-Basrah Security Directorate placed its mercenaries on full alert, stopped issuing leave to any mercenaries, and recalled those on leave. The sources said this came after the directorate received information that the popular Islamic resistance fighters intended to attack it at that time. Orders were given to reinforce guards and patrols near the directorate and the roads leading to it.

In a related development, heroes of the popular resistance forces implemented the just punishment [death] against criminal Sattar 'Adday Tahir, from (al-Jary region), al-Jabsh district in al-Nasiriyah Governorate, on 4 December. The criminal is a noncommissioned officer in Air Force intelligence. On 28 November, a group from the popular Islamic

resistance killed criminal Sa'id Jabr 'Abbud, a police commissioner in al-Shatrah district, in Harran, near (al-Ghunuqah) marsh, al-Dawwayah subdistrict. The criminal's car was destroyed in the operation.

In other news, the regime's oppressive agencies launched a wide-scale detention campaign in many Baghdad slums. Our sources in the capital said that the suburbs of al-Thawrah, al-Hurriyah, and al-Sha'b were the main scenes of the campaign. The sources reported a similar campaign in al-Basrah, where regime agents have been launching indiscriminate arrests and raids for several weeks. So far, hundreds of innocent citizens, especially young men, have been arrested.

Device Found Under UNICEF Truck; Regime Blamed

NC1612161293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Security groups in Iraqi Kurdistan have found an explosive device hidden under a Turkish UNICEF truck. Our sources in Irbil said the explosive device weighed 1 kg and contained the highly explosive TNT. The Turkish driver said he believes the intelligence service of tyrant Saddam's regime planted the device in Mosul when he was stopped and searched.

Talabani on Kurdish Issues, Ties With Israel

NC1512124493 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 13 Dec 93 pp 34-36

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by Maryam Dalbiru in Irbil; date not given]

[Text] [Dalbiru] Two years after the formation of the Kurdish parliament and the regional federal government, what have the Kurds achieved at home and abroad?

[Talabani] The Kurds have realized many of their cultural, social, economic, and other objectives. For the first time in Kurdish history, the dream of having a freely elected legislative council and a Kurdish federal regional government has come true. Consequently, a legitimate, constitutional political entity has emerged democratically. The Kurds have also enjoyed cultural, medical, and economic services and privileges. When the Iraqi Government left the region, it thought its backbone would be broken because it would be unable to pay the salaries of 150,000 employees left behind. But the regional government of Kurdistan secured the necessary funds for administration. It paid salaries, kept hospitals and schools running, and provided public services, such as water and electricity. In cultural gains, the al-Sulaymaniyah University was reestablished, Dahuk University was launched, and the Salah-al-Din University was successfully run. The Kurdish region began to prosper and we rebuilt thousands of villages that were demolished in the scorched earth policy that the Iraqi Government practiced during the genocidal war against our Kurdish people. Martyrs' families are also receiving allowances. So, for the first time, the Kurdish people are exercising their legitimate right to run the political, cultural, and other affairs of their region on their own.

Now, the region is prospering although Iraqi Kurdistan was left burned, destroyed, and looted by the Iraqi dictatorship. Those are the most important domestic achievements. Abroad, the Kurdish people proved that they can exercise their national rights and manage themselves well. Iraqi Kurdistan became a model for democracy. There is broad democracy here: Newspapers can be published and people can express their views, establish media and television projects, and act freely. The regional government of Kurdistan has also proved that it can protect the international border and implement international law. It also established relations with many organizations, governments, and international bodies although it is a federal government and still part of the Iraqi state according to international law.

[Dalbiru] What is your position toward the United States and the West in general? Will they continue to protect "Kurdistan" or will they abandon it after securing their interests in the region?

[Talabani] Historically, the Kurdish people have long suffered the collusion of the European and regional states against them. After World War I, Kurdistan was divided against the will of the Kurdish people and their right to self-determination. With the help of the British, the Arab government of Iraq annexed Iraqi Kurdistan, a district that was called Shehrzor Wamrah, Mosul District [as published]. The district gained independence after the fall of the Ottoman Empire and a separate state recognized by both the Iraqi and British Governments in a joint statement on 25 December 1922 was established. The state lasted one year, after which the British forces invaded Kurdistan to force the Kurdish people to join the Iraqi Arab state. Under the guns of the colonialist British Army, Kurdistan was annexed to Iraq and the Kurdish people were deprived of their legitimate right to self-determination. Since then, the Kurdish people have suffered the collusion of the colonialist, Eastern, and Western states with the regional states to deny them their legitimate right to self-determination. Previously, the East and the West agreed to maintain the status quo, from which our Kurdish people suffered a great deal. But now, new international developments have emerged. Some states that once antagonized the Kurdish people are now neutral and others are supporting the Kurdish people. We view this as a gain and we thank all those who helped us in our ordeal, be they American, French, British, Turkish, Iranian, or European.

We would also like to thank all those who helped the Kurdish people in their time of need. We believe that U.S. support for the Kurdish issue was gained by our people through their firm struggle. We must benefit from this historic opportunity. We hear a lot of talk that these countries are imperialists. But may we ask where the

Arab revolution led by Sharif Husayn sought help? If this policy is acceptable to everyone, why should the Kurds be deprived of this right? Why is it permissible for Iraq to cooperate with the United States, Iran, during the Shah's rule, Turkey, and Europe against the Kurdish people? And why aren't the Kurds allowed to cooperate with these countries in defense of their legitimate right?

[Dalbiru] How do you assess your relations with the Iranian and Turkish Kurds? And how come you keep silent over some Turkish attacks against the Kurds and some Iranian attacks on Kurds inside Iran and particular areas in north Iraq?

[Talabani] We have very good relations with the Kurds in Turkey and Iran. All the Kurdish parties have their own forces here to carry out their political activities. They also have their radios and their magazines are published here. This is freedom and democracy for everyone. Our people sympathize with their brothers in Iran and Turkey. It is not true that we kept silent. When the Turkish and Iranian troops infiltrated the border areas, we lodged protests, delivered statements, addressed the world, and contacted the superpowers asking them to stop these attacks. But we simply cannot fight Turkey, Iran, and Iraq together.

We are an island surrounded by hostile countries. We cannot wage war against Iran or Turkey. Iran's Kurds and Turkey's Kurds have their own parties. These parties, not the Iraqi Kurds, shoulder the task of struggle in these parts. The duty of the Iraqi Kurds is confined to Iraqi Kurdistan and up to the border. The Kurdish parties in Turkey and Iran should shoulder the duty of struggle in these two countries.

Our relations are good with everyone. This makes us suffer greatly because of the Turkish and Iranian pressure against us due to the presence of these Kurdish parties and organizations here. You can see for yourself that these parties enjoy all political rights. We cannot turn Iraqi Kurdistan into a place for staging military operations against the Iranian and Turkish Governments—for many reasons. The revolution's basic principle states that the revolution is a process carried out by the masses. This principle confirms another: The revolution cannot be exported. Iran's Kurds are struggling within their society and so are the Turkish Kurds. We can do nothing in this regard. We are a friendly people and our entity is fresh and young and we cannot turn Iraqi Kurdistan into military bases for the other parties. This is what we have done; we did nothing against our brothers in Turkey and Iran.

The Kurdish parties in Turkey and Iran have masses of troops in Iraqi Kurdistan. These parties enjoy political rights. But the armed struggle is their own affair and they can practice it in their countries. We cannot export the revolution.

[Dalbiru] Rumor has it that there are Israeli experts within your ranks. Is this true and do you have specific relations with Israel?

[Talabani] I would like to give you some facts. We have no Israeli experts. But I would like to ask: Why is it permissible for Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO chairman and the Palestinian commander who is recognized and elected, to shake hands and meet [Israeli Prime Minister] Rabin, while the Kurds are deprived of this right? Are we more royal than the king? Are we more Palestinian than the Palestinians? Why is it permissible for Egypt, the biggest Arab country, and the Egyptian president to meet the Israeli prime minister, to send a delegation to Israel, and to sign a treaty with Israel? Why aren't the Kurds allowed to have Israeli experts? We have no Israeli experts. As for our contacts with Israel, this is an old lie and an old accusation.

We have no relations with Israel. But why shouldn't we have relations? Israel does not want to establish relations with us and we have made no effort to establish relations. But it will be our legitimate right to establish such relations.

I say more than that. The Iraqi regime has often been in contact with Israel. American professor Lori Monroe was identified by President Husni Mubarak as a mediator between the Iraqi Government and Israel. The Iraqi Government has informed us that it will recognize Israel and establish relations with it if there is readiness to lift the blockade! Why is it permissible for the Iraqi Government to establish relations with Israel and for the Kurdish people to be deprived of this right? If the Arabs can meet with the Israelis, establish relations with them, and sign agreements with them, why are the Kurdish people deprived of this right? By what right and logic are we considered an Arab people? Why is it permissible for the Egyptian Arab people to establish relations with Israel? Why is it permissible for the Palestinian Arab people, who are those most concerned with the issue, to establish relations with Israel? Why is this right withheld from the Kurdish (Arab?!) people? There is no reason for this, except chauvinism and hostility and the desire to deprive the Kurdish people of the right to establish any foreign relations.

[Dalbiru] How do you assess the relationship between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] within the Kurdistan Front?

[Talabani] The Kurdistan Front exists, but is not active. We are trying to revive it and make it more active and we will see this in the coming weeks. The relations between the KDP and the PUK are good and normal and are improving. The recent meetings between the political bureaus produced good results. My recent meeting with my brother Mas'ud al-Barazani was fruitful and useful. We think the relations between the two parties will develop and flourish. But we are two different parties, different in some ideological and political concepts. The KDP is a national democratic party, whereas the PUK is a democratic, socialist organization. Sometimes we have different views on issues, but we agree on the basic and fateful issues and seek to strengthen this agreement. As

you know, this is the age of different interpretations, the age of freedom and democracy. We think that no secondary differences can hamper the fateful unity and cohesion between the PUK and KDP. No, we will strengthen and develop these relations.

[Dalbiru] What final statement do you want to make via AL- SHIRA'?

[Talabani] I call on all the Arab intellectuals, journalists, and all thinkers in the Arab world to understand the Kurdish issue. I call for convening an Arab-Kurdish meeting in Kurdistan or any Arab capital to be chosen by the Arab intellectuals and thinkers. We very much need an expanded meeting among representatives of the Arab and Kurdish ideological and political trends to discuss the common issues, the common fate, the long, common history between the fraternal Arab and Kurdish peoples, and future issues to remove any misunderstanding resulting from the chauvinistic positions adopted by Arab nationalism and the silence maintained over the war of annihilation launched by Saddam Husayn's fascist dictatorship regime against the Kurdish people. We think such a meeting is necessary and important. We reiterated our invitation for such a meeting to take place either in Iraqi Kurdistan or in Damascus, Beirut, Cairo, at the AL-SHIRA' offices, or anywhere else. We hope our brother Arab intellectuals, thinkers, and politicians will accept this invitation to strengthen and develop the eternal brotherhood between the fraternal Arab and Kurdish nations.

Aircraft 'Violations' Protested to Arab League

IN1612123993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League that the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait continue to provide facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft in their ceaseless violations of Iraq's airspace, threatening its security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter addressed yesterday to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, said these aircraft violated Iraq's airspace on 10, 11, and 13 December after taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The aircraft conducted 158 hostile sorties.

Iraq's representative asked that his letter, which includes a list detailing these violations, be distributed to the Arab League members in order to inform them of these regrettable facts.

Four Sentenced to Death for Drug Trafficking

IN1612122593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—An Iraqi court has sentenced four persons to death by hanging after they were convicted of possessing a quantity of narcotics for the purpose of trading.

The sentence, published by BABIL today, is in line with Clause Four, Paragraph B-2, of Narcotics Law No. 68 of 1965, under which any person found in possession of a quantity of narcotics for the purpose of trading inside Iraq is sentenced to death.

Specialized world agencies acknowledge that Iraq is one of the cleanest countries in the world in terms of the narcotics epidemic in either using or trafficking in drugs. This incident, however, is due to the circumstances in the Kurdistan autonomous region in northern Iraq that result from the presence of agent cliques, the absence of central power, and foreign conspiracies against the Iraqi people.

Officials: No Rabin-'Arafat Summit Next Week

TA1712055493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Senior officials in Jerusalem say Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will not meet as scheduled next week. They say the necessary conditions for such a meeting had not been achieved. Rabin and 'Arafat agreed at talks in Cairo on Sunday [12 December] to meet again in 10 days time, but Qol Yisra'el's diplomatic affairs reporter Shlomo Raz says the meeting will not take place.

A leading figure in Israel's negotiations with the PLO says there are still major issues that need to be negotiated in addition to the question of border controls and the size of the Jericho area boundaries. This senior personality rules out any likelihood of a final agreement being signed quickly. Alan Ben-'Ami reports:

[Begin Ben-'Ami recording] The Israeli negotiator says that Israelis were taken by surprise at the positions adopted by Yasir 'Arafat at his meeting with Yitzhaq Rabin earlier this week. They were even harder than those the Palestinians had presented at our negotiating sessions, he said. According to the Israeli, 'Arafat's demands regarding the size of the Jericho autonomous area and Palestinian control of the border crossing points from Jordan and Egypt are completely unacceptable. The negotiator says that Israel's continued responsibility for external security, including control of the crossing points, was included in the agreements reached and signed at Oslo. He said that Israel had even brought some of the Palestinian negotiators to the areas, so they could get a firsthand look and on-the-spot explanations of how and why Israel would have to maintain security controls on the frontiers.

As to the Israeli and PLO positions regarding the size of the Jericho autonomous area, the Israeli says the gap here is very large. And even apart from these two important issues, there are still misunderstandings regarding other topics, as well as many matters—both civilian and military—that require further discussions and clarifications before agreement can be reached regarding them.

Even if understandings will be reached at the next Rabin-'Arafat meeting, says the negotiator, time will still be required to draw up the detailed documents that will form the final agreement.

The Israeli figure remains confident that a final agreement can be reached and that an Israeli withdrawal from Jericho and the Gaza Strip can be completed by April. He stresses that it is in the interest of both sides to reach an agreement as soon as possible and says resorting to mediation is more likely to lengthen the process than move it forward.

Yasir 'Arafat remains very dominant in the Palestinian negotiating position and has the final say on everything, says the Israeli. He is clearly an experienced negotiator, but has no experience of negotiating with Israelis, and both sides will need to learn more about the other.

Israel will not budge on those security issues it considers to be vital, including security arrangements affecting Jewish settlers. As for gestures to the Palestinians, such as the release of more prisoners, this is quite possible, although no agreements have been reached yet, the Israeli negotiator says. Israel is currently holding some 9,000 Palestinians and, as a first stage, would likely free all those without blood on their hands. But opponents of the peace move, such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], as well as anyone involved in acts of terror since the signing of the accord with the PLO, will not go free.

As to the Palestinian police force, the Israeli source believes this will eventually number some 8,000 policemen armed with light weapons, but no weaponry would be supplied by Israel, and there will have to be Israeli approval for the types of weapons that the Palestinians will use. [end recording]

Peres on Peace Process: 'We Must Go Forward'

BR1612140993 Paris LE FIGARO in French 16 Dec 93 p5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Pierre Rousselin; in Israel, date not given—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Shim'on Peres arrived in Paris yesterday to launch his book *Time of Peace*. This work, published by the Odile Jacob publishing house, tells the story of how the secret negotiations in Oslo paved the way for the agreement on autonomy for Gaza and Jericho.

[Rousselin] When you signed the agreement on withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho in Washington on 13 September did you expect the current problems?

[Peres] No. I did not expect them. Because I thought that once an agreement had been reached, the two sides would honor it.

[Rousselin] Are you accusing the PLO of failing to honor the Oslo agreement?

[Peres] The Palestinians are trying to go beyond the limits of the agreement on two essential questions: the extent of the Jericho zone and the control of bridges and crossing points along the border. The Declaration of Principles is very clear and we want to honor it without going any further. Indeed, they want to extract a state from it whereas we agreed on autonomy. There is a great difference between the two. Autonomy does not make provision for the prerogatives of foreign relations.

[Rousselin] Would you accept Israeli-Palestinian coordination at the crossing points, as 'Arafat is proposing?

[Peres] The word "coordination" does feature in the agreement. But the PLO wants to participate in the control of borders and bridges. That conflicts with the

agreement which stipulates that Israel will still be responsible for external security and foreign policy. For us, it is a matter of security: We want to prevent the introduction of arms or irresponsible people crossing the border.

[Rousselin] What is your judgment on the failure of the Cairo meeting?

[Peres] We had agreed to try to reach an agreement within two months. If one side is not ready, it will take a little longer. I do not think it is a failure, but a problem. The best solution is for each to abide by the declaration of principles and not try to reopen the negotiations. That would be a terrible mistake.

[Rousselin] Do you think that in 10 days time, the obstacles can be removed?

[Peres] The problem is not how long it will take. It is how to reach an agreement. Dates do not create an agreement, it is the agreement which decides the dates.

[Rousselin] Yitzhaq Rabin has warned that after removing the main obstacles, it will still be necessary to refine the details of the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. That may take a long time...

[Peres] Once we have overcome the two or three main obstacles, we will be able to make rapid progress. There have already been many negotiations on many details and some have been settled. For instance, the transfer of authority to administrative districts has been virtually concluded... Neither side can go back on that. By definition, we must go forward...

[Rousselin] Pending a comprehensive agreement, why not take confidence-building measures like the release of prisoners?

[Peres] That is not the problem. Nobody is expecting confidence-building measures. The problem must be solved. The release of prisoners was not even mentioned in Cairo.

[Rousselin] Is it possible to find a compromise which meets Israel's security requirements and the Palestinian desire to have a presence on the border?

[Peres] If it is possible, why not? But that is your proposal. It is not mine. Israel cannot compromise on security questions. The aim is not to insult the Palestinians or offend their dignity. It is not a question of respect, it is a question of security!

[Rousselin] It seems that you now have only one interlocutor: Yasir 'Arafat. Is that not rather worrying?

[Peres] It was not we who reduced our interlocutors to one person. It is for them to decide.

[Rousselin] How do you view Yasir 'Arafat's attitude?

[Peres] My role is not to give him a grade. I am not his teacher. He is not my student.

[Rousselin] Could the presence of international observers on the borders solve the problem?

[Peres] I do not think that foreign forces would be an answer. 'Arafat has suggested the presence of American forces. But we have tried to avoid that because we do not want to worry American mothers. Look at what happened in Somalia. When an American pilot is reported missing, the whole of America is worried. If we decide to post Americans on the bridges, we would be likely to worry their mothers without making the bridges safer...

[Rousselin] Does your rejection of a foreign presence also apply to any buffer force on the Golan Heights?

[Peres] I prefer to have a good peace agreement rather than calling on foreign forces. We do not want to live under foreign protection. It is better to solve the problem and avoid the need for foreign forces rather than calling on them only to discover that there is no agreement.

[Rousselin] Are you prepared to change your position on the Syrian issue, now that the negotiations are to resume in January?

[Peres] I cannot go further than our position. If we change it, it will be done at the negotiating table.

[Rousselin] Do you think that the Syrians have changed their attitude by agreeing to return to the negotiating table?

[Peres] I am satisfied that the Syrians have not excluded themselves from the negotiations. But I do not see any change in their positions. The fact that they want to remain in the framework of the negotiations is positive.

[Rousselin] The Syrian issue does not seem to be a priority...

[Peres] We are negotiating on three fronts: With the Palestinians, the Jordanians, and the Syrians. We are not traffic police who give priority to whoever arrives first. It would be unacceptable for the slowest partner to set the pace of the negotiations.

[Rousselin] You said that all it takes is a pen to sign an agreement with Jordan...

[Peres] I said that about the agenda and it was signed.

[Rousselin] But a pen is also needed to sign a peace agreement with Jordan. Does President al-Asad not hold that pen?

[Peres] I do not think that King Husayn would agree with you. Nobody would accept that another has the right of veto over his foreign policy. This is proved by the fact that the Jordanians have made progress whereas the Syrians have not moved.

[Rousselin] Could Pope John-Paul II visit Jerusalem shortly?

[Peres] For the first time in 1994 years, we are busy establishing formal relations between the Vatican and Israel. We are going to sign an agreement on opening diplomatic relations before the end of the month. It is a historic agreement but also a spiritual agreement because it is an agreement between two religions. As for the Pope's visit, it is for him to decide the date. When he received me at the Holy See, he told me in a very moving way that he wanted to make his pilgrimage before it was too late. On our side, all the doors are open...

Shahaq Comments on Status of Talks

TA1612202293 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Studio interview with Major General Amnon Shahaq, deputy chief of staff and head of the Israeli delegation to the Cairo talks, by Dani Levi and political correspondent Shlomo Ganor in the weekly "Encounter" program; on 15 December—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] Sir, the impression created after the meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat this week was that within 10 days you would definitely find a solution. Having participated in the talks, could you enlighten us?

[Shahaq] The two sides decided to take 10 days to reassess and try to find a solution to all the issues raised in the meeting between the prime minister and 'Arafat. Not all the issues which we and the Palestinian delegation have yet to discuss came up in the rather lengthy meeting between the two men, which I believe was the longest meeting they ever had and lasted almost two hours. I have no doubt that after the differences raised in the meeting are settled we still have a long way to go before the agreement is signed. I hope we will find a way to bridge the differences and to agree to pursue the negotiations in an intensive fashion in a bid to sign an agreement as soon as possible.

[Ganor] Does that mean that there will be no meeting between the prime minister and Yasir 'Arafat in 10 days?

[Shahaq] Of course there will be a meeting, they agreed about it. I have no doubt that such a meeting will take place, just as I have no doubt that both sides are looking for solutions to the problems. I believe that after this meeting, the working teams will have to hold many sessions in order to arrive at an agreement. After all the issues are settled, both those in dispute and those not in dispute—there are many issues on which some sort of agreement has already been reached—we will have to put it all in writing. Ultimately, the agreement must be detailed and in writing, but we have not yet begun writing it. We will be able to write it only after understandings and accords have been attained. Within 10 days, the prime minister and 'Arafat are supposed to agree on the issues which were discussed in their latest meeting. To the best of my knowledge, these are not the only issues which remain unsolved between us and the Palestinians.

[Levi] Do you think 'Arafat's optimism in the last few days about settling the differences is founded?

[Shahaq] If he is optimistic, I suppose a great deal depends on him. If he is optimistic, I hope he has reached some decisions. He definitely knows the Palestinian position better than I do. He should definitely know better than me what he or the delegation will present in future meetings. 'Arafat is the supreme authority and the man with the power to make the decisions. The Palestinian delegation reports to 'Arafat and gets approval from him, and 'Arafat is the final decisionmaker. He determines and approves the Palestinian position. If he is optimistic, I suppose he knows the Palestinian position is such as to be acceptable to the Israeli delegation.

[Levi] When you sit with the Palestinian delegation, do you get the impression that 'Arafat gets realistic reports?

[Shahaq] I do not know what his men report to him. I know that the Israeli positions are very clear and have been clear to the Palestinian delegation for a long time. We presented our maps and our positions in writing, and we told them how we interpret the roles of each side in the field after the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. I would like to remind you that at this point we are only talking about Gaza and Jericho. We have also toured Gaza and Jericho together with members of the Palestinian delegation, some of whom are residents of the territories. I think the positions are absolutely clear, but I do not know how they are presented to 'Arafat because I am not there to witness it. However, 'Arafat has heard many of these positions directly, both from the prime minister and from Israeli officials he has met recently. I do not know if this applies to all the issues, but I am sure that the Israeli position on some of the issues currently on the agenda should be very clear to him. That is why it does not matter so much how the picture is presented to him.

[Ganor] Sir, I wonder, the talks in al-'Arish and Paris have resumed, but a resumption of the talks of the military committee has not been announced.

[Shahaq] That is what the prime minister and 'Arafat agreed in their meeting in Cairo. They specifically agreed to pursue the negotiations in Paris and al-'Arish, and to halt the negotiations of the military committee—where all the disagreements occurred—for 10 days until an agreement is reached on the disputed issues raised in their meeting.

[Levi] Will secret contacts be held during this period in order to prepare the background for such negotiations or will no contacts be held at all?

[Shahaq] I suppose contacts will be held. We have to wait a few days. Ten days are not a long time, and we should all be patient. 'Arafat himself said that the interval could be 9 or 11 days, that it could be more or it could be less. We are talking about days, and within that time both sides have to meet and reach understandings.

[Levi] And will such meetings definitely take place?

[Shahaq] I am sure of it.

[Ganor] One of the issues in dispute is the control of the border crossings. Is 'Arafat's proposal to have the border crossings controlled by an Israeli-Palestinian-international force acceptable to Israel?

[Shahaq] We want to sign an agreement. As I said before, at the moment, the agreement we want to sign pertains to Gaza and Jericho. This agreement was not conceived in a void. It is based on the Oslo agreement, which the State of Israel and the PLO signed in Washington. The Oslo agreement states that Israel will retain responsibility for external security, for the settlements, and for Israelis moving in the areas of Gaza and Jericho. If all this is acceptable and clear, I believe that the problem of the border crossings can be easily resolved. In the meeting in Cairo, 'Arafat raised the proposal you mentioned, which seems rather peculiar to me. Actually, his proposal does not only mention the border crossings, but talks about patrols along the Jordan River and a similar arrangement on the border between Egypt and the Gaza Strip. Such a proposal contradicts my reading of Israel retaining responsibility for external security.

[Levi] Nevertheless, the Palestinians continue to insist on this point. The question is whether Israel can compromise on some kind of cooperation with a Palestinian or international entity at the border crossings.

[Shahaq] We remain faithful to the Oslo agreement. We want to reach an arrangement, and we are prepared to examine and execute anything that does not affect our security. There is a difference between an arrangement about a Palestinian presence at the border crossings and Palestinian control of the crossings amid some kind of coordination with Israel. Therein lie the differences between the sides. If the other side is willing to reach an agreement about a Palestinian presence at the crossings, I believe more than one way can be found that will be satisfactory to it. Ultimately, it is up to the other side, not to me, to decide what is satisfactory to it.

[Levi] And what about an international element?

[Shahaq] We see no room for international elements. After all, we are the ones who have to live with the Palestinians in Gaza, Jericho, and other places and they will cross into Israel. Tourists, Israelis, and Palestinians who come through the Allenby Bridge and at Rafah will visit Israel. After all, as soon as they undergo a check, nothing prevents people who cross the Allenby Bridge today from visiting Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, and Beersheba. The same applies to anybody crossing into the Gaza Strip through Rafah. We have to live with the Palestinians, and that is why I see no room or role for an international body in those places.

[Levi] If so, what are Israel's red lines, which you will not forgo under any circumstances whatsoever?

[Shahaq] I think it is very clear: External security, the security of the settlements, and the security of Israelis moving on the roads in Gaza and Jericho. These are the issues that are important to us and on which we will not compromise. We want to live together and to attain an agreement. Therefore, I believe it is not a question of making concessions. Both sides must reach understandings and trust each other more, both sides need time to get used to a new situation. We occupied those territories and controlled them, and this situation is about to change. The State of Israel agreed to change the situation, and we must get used to this idea. It will not happen in a day and it will not be easy.

We agreed to set up a Palestinian police force, and we said it should be strong in order to be able to do its job and to provide security to the Palestinians and to anybody living or driving in Gaza and Jericho. However, such a police force does not yet exist and organizing one takes time. We all need time to learn and to acquire proficiency. The question is not concessions but understanding each other's needs. I think we are sensitive, we are trying to understand the needs of the other side, and we are examining what can be done in order to put together an agreement that will enable coexistence with minimum friction and a life that is good for all. However, we will not compromise where our responsibility for external security or the security of the settlements and the settlers is concerned.

[Ganor] How much progress has the committee on the transfer of powers meeting in al-'Arish made?

[Shahaq] Look, problems can be simplified or made more complex. We agreed to transfer powers to them. Even today local Palestinians are employed in all Civil Administration offices in Gaza and they are part of the process. For example, the Palestinians asked for maps of Gaza. Who do you think drafted those maps? The Palestinian workers of the Civil Administration did. The education system in Gaza is for the most part administered by Palestinians. We are also prepared to make progress on these issues.

Incidentally, delegations are meeting today in al-'Arish to discuss the transfer of power. Economic issues pertaining to Gaza and Jericho—the interpretation of the economic agreements between Israel and the Palestinians—are being discussed in Paris. One must bear in mind that the moment goods cross the Jordan River bridges, they can go anywhere from there. They can stop in Jericho or Ramallah, but they may also end up in Ramla, Tel Aviv, or anywhere within the State of Israel. That is why understandings must yet be reached on many issues, and these must then be written down in an agreement.

[Levi] The picture you paint is one of prolonged negotiations. How realistic is 13 April as the target date for the completion of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Gaza and Jericho?

[Shahaq] What is known today as the Oslo agreement was signed in Washington on 13 September. It was agreed that Israeli and Palestinian delegations would meet one month later and would try to reach an agreement about Gaza and Jericho within two months, while the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho would take place four months later. Hence the two dates, 13 September and 13 April. The Oslo agreement states that the withdrawal will take place four months from the day the agreement on Gaza and Jericho is signed. If we take the agreement literally, then the withdrawal cannot take place on 13 April. However, that is not the situation at all. I believe that if we reach understandings and sign an agreement within a few weeks we will be able to adhere to 13 April as the target date for the completion of the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

Of course, if we fail to reach an agreement—let us theoretically assume that an agreement is reached only toward the end of March—it may take another one, two, or three weeks to complete or to effect the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. However, as I see the situation today, an agreement can be attained within weeks. If we do, we will be able to comply with 13 April as the date set for the completion of the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

The moment the agreement is signed, we will start making changes and handing over to the Palestinians responsibility for all sort of issues, such as the administration of civil matters, getting them acquainted with the work done by the Civil Administration offices, and handing over some of the territory. All these issues—what, when, where, and how; when will they be ready, who and how will be handed over the powers— will have to be concluded with them.

[Ganor] Will all these things be done before an agreement is signed?

[Shahaq] We have to include all these details in the agreement. When we sign the agreement we have to include these elements in it.

[Levi] Is Israel interested in accelerating the negotiations?

[Shahaq] Look, we are interested in reaching an agreement which will be good for both sides. Let me reiterate that an agreement which will be good for only one side will be a bad agreement. We want the agreement to serve the interests of both sides. If we sign an agreement which will be bad for one side it will probably run into immediate difficulties. Our purpose is to sign a good agreement which will enable all of us to live with security in the region.

[Levi] You mentioned a strong Palestinian police force. What expectations does Israel have from this body—on which 'Arafat and Fatah will in fact depend?

[Shahaq] The Palestinian self-government to be established in Gaza and Jericho will be vested not only with authority and honor, but will also be burdened with a big and heavy responsibility which it will have to implement. Part of this responsibility is to demonstrate control on the ground, to provide law and order and security for all the people living in the area. The Palestinian police force, acting under the authority of the Palestinian self- government, will have to be among those who will provide security, law and order, in the area under their responsibility.

[Ganor] Will they be armed?

[Shahaq] Certainly.

[Levi] Light arms?

[Shahaq] Yes. We are talking here about a police force. I assume there could be elements who will try to interfere with its activity, consequently the policemen will have to be armed in such a way that will enable them to cope and solve problems vis-a-vis the elements who will try to interfere—if there are indeed such elements.

[Levi] Are you referring to terrorist elements such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad?

[Shahaq] If Hamas operates against it, the Palestinian police force will have to act against it, as well as against all those who violate law and order and who harm security.

[Levi] Will it act independently, without any coordination with the IDF?

[Shahaq] Depends where. If Hamas operates in Gaza, we will consider the Palestinian police as responsible for operations there. Israeli forces will operate in all places which are within our security jurisdiction. Wherever possible, we will certainly be interested in coordinating our operations with them.

[Levi] Is this why Israel is interested in a strong police force?

[Shahaq] Israel is interested in the eventual success of what we are in the process of building. We are interested in success, not failure. In order to succeed, this police force must be strong. Other things, such as their economy, will also have to be strong. We are interested in success, because this will enable us to advance.

[Ganor] Taking into consideration the balance of power between the various Palestinian factions, do you believe that 'Arafat's Fatah will be able to abide by the agreements it signs with Israel?

[Shahaq] Look, I am not a prophet. We know who we are dealing with. We are forging an agreement with the body which still enjoys the support of most of the Palestinian population. I think that parts of the Palestinian population are facing various dilemmas and frustrations, because nothing has happened in the field so far. I do believe, however, that support for this Palestinian self-government will grow when things begin to happen on

the ground. In my opinion this body will do precisely what most Palestinians are interested in. I assess that some present-day opposition elements will seek ways of becoming part of the institutions that will be set up.

[Ganor] Does this include Hamas and Islamic Jihad people?

[Shahaq] I do not know. I am not the spokesman of Hamas or the Islamic Jihad. I think they will have no choice. They will either have to become part of the process, thereby vanishing as terror organizations, or to fight the Palestinian self-government. I do not want to predict, but I believe that even if there is opposition, eventually they will search for ways of becoming part of the new body to be established in the area.

[Ganor] Does Israel reject the possibility of Hamas participation in the negotiations?

[Shahaq] Do you expect us to negotiate with an organization calling for Israel's destruction and which is unwilling to sit down and negotiate peace? Hamas today calls for murdering Israelis. We will not hold peace negotiations with a group which calls for murdering Israelis—they themselves are not interested in such negotiations.

[Levi] We did speak with Yasir 'Arafat even when he continued carrying out attacks against Israel. This occurred before Israelis directly met him with a view of reaching an agreement.

[Shahaq] I believe that the agreement with 'Arafat's Fatah became possible once this organization agreed to renounce terrorism and opted for peace negotiations.

[Levi] I am referring here to earlier unofficial contacts.

[Shahaq] In these contacts, too, 'Arafat's PLO sent out very clear signals concerning what it is willing to do. I cannot see Hamas evincing the same kind of forthcoming attitude that the PLO evinced at the beginning of the talks.

[Levi] Despite the fact that Israel abided by its commitment and returned the deportees?

[Shahaq] Israel always abides by its commitments. I will not tell you that we are happy, but the government decided to return them almost one year ago, and Israel will fulfill every agreement it undertakes.

[Ganor] Ma. Gen. Shahaq, do you think that the transfer of powers to the Palestinians will require a period of piggybacking on the part of the IDF, or will the Palestinians wake up one fine morning to find Gaza empty of Israeli soldiers?

[Shahaq] We will sit together and think about this. The transfer of powers in civilian offices will certainly entail a period of piggybacking, because in order to teach them how to run things we will require such a period. We will have to sit together in order to explain to them how to conduct the civilian affairs. Regarding the security sphere, we might say that the joint tours we conducted in the field already constitutes the beginning of a piggyback period. I believe we will have to sit down and decide how to implement this.

[Ganor] Did you participate in these tours?

[Shahaq] No.

[Levi] One of the things which has recently raised hopes of the Palestinians in the territories is the reports regarding goodwill gestures Israel may implement. Will Israel implement such gestures in the near future, prior to a Rabin-'Arafat meeting or following such a meeting?

[Shahaq] Look, Israel is interested in an agreement which should solve problems, some of which the gestures are meant to address. The issue of the prisoners is one such example. This is an extremely sensitive issue involving thousands of families whose sons are in prison. We know that we have to address these issues. There are various criteria relating to the prisoners. One criterion, for example, states that those involved in hostile terrorist activity following the signing of the agreement on 13 September will not enjoy any arrangements we may work out. There are quite a few prisoners, on the other hand, who have not shed any blood. Some of them will probably be released as part of the understandings we will reach in the framework of the agreements. This will happen when we deem it appropriate and after we speak with the Palestinians about it. It cannot be dissociated, however, from progress achieved in the negotiations. Progress in this process will be made possible by many things, some of which can be seen as gestures, others as practical actions. We will speak about everything, there is no issue over which we are unwilling to speak. However, there are positions, especially in the security sphere, over which we will not compromise. Different standards will be applied in discussions referring to those whose hands are tainted with blood. All these issues, however, will be discussed in the framework of the negotiations.

[Ganor] Finally, Maj. Gen. Shahaq, what type of relationships do you expect between the Israelis and the Palestinians after the implementation of the agreement?

[Shahaq] We, our children and grandchildren, will live together with the Palestinians for many generations to come. Today we must lay a solid foundation for joint existence and good lives for all.

U.S. Assessment of Syria Talks Detailed

TA1712115793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Dec 93 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will agree to declare his readiness to establish full peace with Israel

along the Egyptian model, including diplomatic relations, if Israel announces beforehand its recognition of Syrian sovereignty on the Golan Heights and its consent to implement a withdrawal on the Golan Heights in exchange for peace. Such an assessment was recently conveyed to the top political echelon in Israel.

[In a related report on page 1 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 17 December, Pinhas 'Inbari adds: "According to foreign diplomatic sources, this is the formula U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher left for the approval of Syria and Israel during his recent shuttle mission in the region.

["Israel has rejected Syria's demand that it recognize Syrian sovereignty on the Golan Heights, stating that this conflicts with its enforcement of Israeli law over the Golan Heights."]

According to this assessment, President al-Asad is interested in an unequivocal Israeli declaration regarding Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights and "does not understand" what Prime Minister Rabin meant when he said that "the depth of withdrawal will be equal to the depth of peace."

The political echelon was told that the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the beginning of autonomy talks for the entire West Bank satisfy al-Asad's demand that negotiations with Israel be held in the framework of comprehensive peace talks in the Middle East rather than as a separate Israeli-Syrian peace. Consequently, al-Asad is now willing to pursue the path of peace.

According to the aforementioned assessment, al-Asad understands the Israeli need for security arrangements on the Golan Heights after the withdrawal and may drop his demand for reciprocity in the security arrangements and the demilitarization of identical territories in Syria and Israel. Al-Asad also agrees to a phased withdrawal to be implemented over a period of several years.

Al-Asad is currently waiting for Israel, which has asked to delay the talks with Syria and concentrate on implementing the agreement with the PLO. According to the assessment, al-Asad is aware of Rabin's internal political difficulties and is closely following the coalition problems in Israel.

Israel is currently awaiting al-Asad's meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva in mid-January, in which the Syrian president is expected to provide clarifications regarding the substance of peace he is willing to offer Israel. [passage omitted]

Israeli Government sources, acting on behalf of the prime minister, have attempted to maintain contacts with Syrian elements abroad over the past several months. In the meetings, which were defined as "exploratory talks," various confidence-building proposals, such as the idea for a meeting between Rabin and al-Asad in the region, were raised. The Syrians made it clear, however, that they are not interested in creating a direct channel with Israel, but rather are willing to negotiate only through U.S. mediation.

Senior government sources say that in the negotiations with Syria, Israel will insist that the rate of normalization be quicker than the rate of withdrawal on the Golan Heights and that an Israeli Embassy be opened in Damascus as soon as the first stage of withdrawal has been completed. The sources recall that in the peace agreement with Egypt, normalization in relations was achieved in early 1980, following the first stage of withdrawal and more than two years before the final withdrawal from the Sinai. [passage omitted]

Bank Governor Frenkel Views Impact of GATT

TA161208593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Telephone interview with Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Excerpts] [Zissowitz] The EC Foreign Minister's Council yesterday endorsed GATT, the draft agreement on international trade between the United Sates and the EC countries. [passage omitted]

Who do you believe is most threatened by it? Could it be the industrialized countries, where wages are high and customs barriers were set up to protect them against dumping?

[Frenkel] I would focus on the benefits rather than on the dangers of the agreement. I believe a very dramatic move was made. It will improve the global economy. Some of the countries will have to deal with specific problems in the short run, but there is no doubt that the move will improve the efficiency of world trade. The economy of every country involved in the agreement will improve.

[Zissowitz] Will Israeli farmers have to pay the price of the agreement's implementation?

[Frenkel] Again, I must say that, first, every member country of the GATT agreement will share in the price of the agreement. At the same time, we must not look at the current state of affairs and ask which country will suffer and which will benefit. The agreement constitutes the preparation of a trade layout for the next century. This does not happen everyday. Very significant walls have been removed here. In fact, we are entering a new world.

[Zissowitz] But there is no way around considering the risks—for example, the Israeli farmers and industrialists who might find it hard to compete with cheaper products that will be imported to Israel after the customs barriers protecting them are lifted.

[Frenkel] On the one hand, we will have to deal with new competition, perhaps even more efficient competition. On the other hand, new markets will open to us. Nothing is more important and better for the industry and exporters of a small country than the size of the markets opening before it. The main obstacle facing a small state

such as Israel, where the quality of the product is so important, are irrelevant barriers and obstacles such as customs, quotas, as the like. I believe that if markets open to us, that is exactly what will lead to improved conditions for our industrialists and other economic sectors, which are very efficient but can be even more so. I believe that in the final analysis, the customer is the end goal. The world customer will be able to buy cheaper products, paying less taxes and customs fees.

[Zissowitz] As a representative of the Israeli customer, when will we really be able to buy cheaper imports in Israel? How long will it take for the agreement to be implemented and have an effect on the Israeli market?

[Frenkel] First, the implementation of the Uruguay agreement that has recently been signed, as well as the GATT agreement, will take quite a few years. Here in Israel, we, too, have a seven-year plan, adopted by the government some two years ago, for opening our markets. The concept is very reasonable. It says that in order to prevent short-term damage, our industry, agriculture, and other economic fields are being given time to prepare. This is why we decided on a very gradual process over seven years. The important thing, however, is that now that the path has been announced, the Israeli market—producers and customers alike—has time to prepare, which is why there is a need to adhere to it. [passage omitted]

[Zissowitz] I would also like to ask you about the effect the agreement will have on the scope of unemployment, which is one of the gravest problems facing the world economy.

[Frenkel] I believe that in this context, there has been a conceptual breakthrough. The world leaders realized that the way to solve the unemployment problem is not by erecting walls and through artificial protection but rather by removing walls and opening markets. This is the direction. There is a serious international unemployment problem today, mainly in Europe. The world leaders reached the conclusion that solving the problem requires that markets be opened rather than closed. I believe there is an important lesson for us here.

[Zissowitz] I would like to go back to the issue of lowered customs tariffs. The agreement speaks of some 40 percent fewer taxes. Will this be the real discount on the price of imports for the Israeli customer in several years?

[Frenkel] No. First of all, the agreement speaks of a very significant drop in customs tariffs, but we should remember that these are not all that high even now. On the average, the tariffs will be cut from 5 to 3 percent. It seems very significant, almost one-third, but that is all. Therefore, prices will not drop immediately, just as the reduction of the customs tariffs will not take place immediately. [passage omitted]

Bilateral Accords, Peace With Israel Discussed

NC1612194793 Paris AFP in English 1925 GMT 16 Dec 93

[By Randa Habib]

[Text] Amman, Dec 16 (AFP)—Jordan is ready to sign bilateral accords with Israel, but they will only be implemented after a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement has been achieved, a Jordanian official told AFP on Thursday [16 December].

"We cannot implement the accords reached with Israel until our bilateral relations are normalized, and that cannot happen until there is peace," the official said.

Jordanian officials presented their position to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his visit to Amman in early December, the source said, following a U.S. appeal for Jordan to sign a peace treaty with Israel soon.

Jordan rejected the U.S. proposal, saying a peace treaty could only be signed after all the issues disputed with Israel had been resolved.

King Husayn hinted at a joint press conference with Christopher that bilateral agreements could be reached with Israel before such a treaty was signed.

He said "peace should come as the crowning achievement of resolving all these problems."

Jordan and Israel agreed on an agenda for future bilateral negotiations in Washington on September 14, one day after the Jewish state signed a limited autonomy accord with the Palestine Liberation Organization for the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Seven Jordanian-Israeli committees were set up to negotiate agreements, including five within the framework of the multilateral negotiations on water, refugees, arms control and security, economic development and the environment.

One joint committee is charged with political issues and meets in line with the Arab-Israeli bilateral talks, and a tripartite economic committee groups officials from Jordan, Israel and the United States.

The governor of Jordan's central bank, Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, met directors of the country's banks on Thursday to brief them on an accord reached by the tripartite committee on December 1, authorizing Jordanian financial institutions to operate in the occupied West Bank.

Initially Israel will only allow one branch per bank in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the source said, but the banks may request more branches.

Finance Minister Discusses Economy

JN1612214093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Finance Minister Sami Qammuh has said that the economic and financial situation in Jordan is very reassuring and has good prospects. This is especially true since the internationally recognized economic parameters reaffirm this when applied to Jordan.

During a lecture he delivered yesterday at the annual convention held by the Jordanian society for graduates of U.S. universities and colleges, Qammuh said: If we compare the economy in Jordan with the economies of developing countries, as far as the rate of inflation and growth, we will find that Jordan's economy is much better than these economies. He added that this is confirmed by the fact that the revenues within the 1994 budget covered 86 per cent of the government's expenditure in general. This accomplishment indicates that we are close to achieving the main objective; that is, self-sufficiency. It will not be long before we are able to cover all our expenses through dependency on our local revenues.

Qammuh reaffirmed that Jordan, which is a member of the International Monetary Fund [IMF], is not facing any pressures from the IMF to implement specific programs. He said that the IMF does not have ready-made plans through which it can impose its means for reform on us or on others.

Qammuh talked about the outlines, objectives, and accomplishments of the first and second reform programs. He stressed that the government is concerned about achieving balanced growth and tackling all structural imbalances in the national economy.

Deputies' Votes Against Government Protested

JN1612102393 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 16 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] Amman—AKHBAR AL-USBU'—Hundreds of citizens in some electorates have expressed their denunciation and condemnation of the stands of their deputies in the confidence session. They stressed that the deputies who voted against the government of Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali do not represent them and that they did so for personal, not national, reasons.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that a number of organizations in some provinces are preparing statements signed by thousands of citizens in order to send them to the House of Representatives and the Royal Court. In these statements, the citizens expressed their resentment and denunciation because their representatives did not vote in favor of al-Majali's government. The citizens also threatened to withdraw their confidence in these deputies.

In interviews conducted by AKHBAR AL-USBU' in a number of governorates and provinces, citizens disapproved of the fierce and unjust campaign to which al-Majali's government was exposed. They said the accusations in some deputies' speeches were unjustified.

Buwayz Expects Declaration With Israel in Talks

NC1612183493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] At a news conference in the foreign correspondents hall in London today, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz expected the return to the negotiating table late next month to result in a [Lebanese-Israeli] declaration of principles. Signing a peace agreement is not the essence of the issue, he said, putting it into practice is the real test. Buwayz denied the possibility of a Syrian-Lebanese summit on Lebanese territory, calling this press speculation. The following is a recording of some excerpts from Minister Buwayz's news conference:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] To foil or not to foil the Gaza-Jericho agreement is not the issue. No one is demanding the foiling of the agreement. But some believe that the agreement was not satisfactory to the Palestinians and Arabs from the start. Perhaps it should have contained some additional points. There were reservations about the ambiguous nature of the agreement. It was not clear what would happen after Gaza-Jericho. Still, no one can explain what will happen after that. The second reservation related to the fact that the agreement ignored [word indistinct] solutions to a large number of Palestinians living outside Palestine. There were also reservations about the powers given to the Palestinians in those lands; they were less than municipal powers. But we (?are not saying) that the agreement should be foiled. It should be improved and developed in a manner that allows the Palestinian leadership to defend it and convince people of it. So far, I do not believe that President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has the sufficient elements to promote, defend, and implement the agreement. Some doubt Israel's intentions, and some believe that the Palestinians have been given things they cannot implement [words indistinct] the idea of building the Palestinian entity. I do not want to delve into all these considerations. I want only to say that there is also a very important aspect about the agreement—the fact that it was a separate deal. If the agreement had been part of a collective work and a balanced progress on all negotiating tracks, perhaps it would have enjoyed a more comprehensive political cover to help the Palestinian leadership deal with it.

[Unidentified correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Buwayz] I do not think that a meeting was decided in Beirut [words indistinct]. I would like to stress that reports on a summit that might be held in Lebanon were nothing more than press information or speculation. I stress that this subject was not raised [words indistinct]

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Buwayz] [Words indistinct] the essence of resistance in the occupied south is Israel's occupation of the Lebanese territory and [word indistinct]. So far, Lebanon does not possess the military and political power to liberate this territory. We believe that, with Israel's withdrawal or with Israel's announcement that it is ready to withdraw—allowing for the formation of a joint military committee to discus the withdrawal timetable, [words indistinct] the prevailing situation in the south will end. At any rate, resistance is only a result of occupation, not a reason for it [words indistinct]. Anyway, Lebanon has repeatedly announced that Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese territory will allow the state to shoulder its responsibility in maintaining security and stability in that region. [end recording]

Al-Hirawi Thanks al-Asad for Stance on UN Resolution

NC1712071593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi phoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday and discussed the situation in the region and the UN General Assembly resolution on Middle East peace, a resolution that failed to mention UN Security Council Resolution 425.

President al-Hirawi thanked President al-Asad for the stance adopted by Syria at the UN General Assembly against the draft resolution, which ignored UN Security Council Resolution 425. Discussion also revolved around joint Lebanese-Syrian issues, especially the situation in Lebanon in light of government steps in reconstruction and development.

Iran Asked To Avoid Tension Before U.S.-Syrian Summit

PM1712120293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Dec 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Syria Urges Iran To 'Clear Air' in Preparation for Awaited al-Asad-Clinton Summit"]

[Excerpts] Damascus, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In the context of a "goodwill" gesture in preparation for the expected summit meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton, Syria has asked Iran to avoid anything that is likely to increase tension in the region.

The Syrian request came during President al-Asad's meeting with Hasan Ebrahim Habibi [Iranian first vice president], one of Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's aides, who is currently visiting Damascus.

President al-Asad was expected to make an official visit to Tehran later in the month, but the visit, as reported, has been postponed until after the al-Asad-Clinton meeting in Geneva in January.

Syria is urging Iran to help "clear the air" in preparation for the Geneva summit, namely by exerting pressure on Lebanese Hizballah to force it to offer "positive gestures" with regard to the missing Israeli soldiers. [passage omitted]

Syria and Iran believe that the agreements concluded between the PLO and Israel could collapse as a result of Isreali intransigence and the splits inside Palestinian ranks.

Iran is seeking to play an effective role in guaranteeing the agreements' failure. As for Syria, it prefers to stay on the periphery of events and express its opposition, but without taking any measures to torpedo the agreements. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad, U.S. Delegation Discuss Peace Process

JN1612201193 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] At 1100 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received a U.S. Congressional delegation led by Senator Dennis DeConcini. Members of the delegation are Arlen Specter, Charles Grassley, Bob Graham, and Representative Bill Richardson.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross.

Discussions dealt with the Middle East peace process, the obstacles hampering it, and ways to overcome them.

The Congressional delegation pointed out Syria's central position in the peace process, and the importance of his excellency the president's role in the region.

The president explained to the delegation Syria's position on various issues of interest to the region. He stressed Syria's adherence to the peace process and the objective of a just, comprehensive peace.

Cooperation With U.S. Viewed As 'Necessary'

JN1612211293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Syria has always wanted to see the objectives of the peace process achieved. The outcome of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Syria is evidence that Damascus has once again given the peace process another chance to achieve a just, comprehensive peace. The twisted Israeli logic that seeks to handle each track separately, circumvent the peace process by separate agreements and truncated, partial solutions, and activate one track while freezing another, does not bring peace and security. Nor does it end a long-standing conflict over substantive, fateful issues.

The few past months were enough to expose this Israeli logic and defeat its arguments that try to make others believe that peace has been established; that the entire question has been resolved; that each Arab side is waiting in line for its turn to come so the Israeli leaders will declare they are satisfied with it; and that secret contacts is the best, most efficient way.

It is now very clear that returning to partial, unilateral solutions and escaping international legitimacy and its resolutions does not reflect good faith and concern about achieving a just, comprehensive peace. It is equally clear that the rulers of Israel have to date not provided evidence that they are sincere about commitment to the foundations of the peace process and respect for international legitimacy and implementing its resolutions. The Israeli rulers are still trying, until this very moment, not to achieve peace but to secure spoils from their wars and attacks and raids, as well as to get a reward for their violation of UN resolutions and all international norms and laws.

The rulers of Israel want peace and the rights and land of others. This does not achieve a just, viable peace. When oppressed and faced with unjust solutions that abuse its rights, attack its land, and infringe on its dignity, no nation on earth would remain silent and subdued. The Arabs are no exception. On the contrary, they give evidence that peoples do not accept injustice and occupation, but wage struggle, using all the means available to them, to protect their dignity and liberate their land and restore their rights.

No one can deny that Syria has a sure desire for a genuine, just, comprehensive, and viable peace. This is why it has accepted the resolutions of international legitimacy and cooperated with all parties that launched efforts to establish peace in the region. Syria has also constructively contributed to opening the door for the

U.S. initiative to achieve peace in the Middle East. On the other hand, the Israeli Government, led by Shamir, officially rejected the initiative. Syria accepted the U.S. initiative because its foundations—the land-for-peace principle and the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338—are in harmony with Syrian policy.

When the rulers of Israel maneuvered to escape peace, Syria challenged them and proposed, before the entire world, a simple yet important formula. Full peace in exchange for full withdrawal. Syria announced that it means what it says and is ready for everything that this formula entails, provided Israel accepts it. This challenge still stands. When Syria says something, it remains committed to it. Syria's credibility, established by President Hafiz al-Asad, is well known and acknowledged by everybody. Syria and its president have never broken any commitment. Perhaps we would not be far from the truth if we say that the peace problem and the peace process are largely dependent on the attitude of the rulers of Israel toward international legitimacy and toward the implementation of the agreed-upon foundations of the peace process.

While in Damascus, Warren Christopher saw that what has obstructed the peace talks in Washington is not Syria but the rulers of Israel, who constantly try to escape the foundations of the peace process and the resolutions of international legitimacy and their consequent obligations.

Contrary to the Israeli stand, Syria sees eye to eye with the U.S. Administration, led by President Bill Clinton, on advancing the peace process in line with the foundations on which it was built. The purpose of this is to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. Syria, just like Washington, stresses the comprehensiveness of the solution and achieving stability in the region.

Syria has welcomed the Clinton administration's commitment to these foundations, because Syria too is committed to them. Therefore, cooperation in this spirit is possible and useful, in fact necessary. This cooperation is in the interest of Syria and the United States and everyone who looks forward to ending the chronic conflict in the Middle East on sound, just bases.

Syria, as President Hafiz al-Asad has repeatedly said, is not a warmonger. Syria has always sought a just and comprehensive peace. This peace has been one of its objectives. This objective is part of Syrian policy—past, present, and future. Inasmuch as Syria is concerned about just and comprehensive peace, which Syria deems a major objective of its policy, Syria adheres fully to its rights and to each, single iota and grain of soil of its national territory. Syria's Arab land will remain so forever. No Syrian can think, even for a moment, of bargaining over the soil of the homeland or accepting anything short of comprehensive withdrawal. The entire world has acknowledged that peace is impossible without Syria. Peace is even more than impossible without the full return of the Golan to the mother homeland.

Egypt's Sidqi Arrives for Committee Meeting

JN1612184793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi arrived in Damascus at 1245 today on an official visit to Syria. Leading those who welcomed him at Damascus International Airport was Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. [passage omitted]

Mr. Sidqi made a statement to journalists in which he said: Since the dawn of history, Egypt and Syria have maintained a strong relationship. This relationship has recently developed on all levels. He added that bilateral cooperation is not confined to political areas; it extends to economic ones, as well. He said: This is the sixth round of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee. In the past five rounds, a great deal was achieved in all areas. The two countries aspire for greater achievements. Definitely, through productive cooperation and continued meetings between officials from both countries, achievements can increase manifold.

Mr. Sidqi said: It is not easy to say that we will work if the requirements for such work are not available. I believe that such requirements are very available between the two countries. We in Egypt and Syria share the same desire to strengthen the existing cooperation.

Mr. Sidqi indicated that during this round of talks, there will be no new areas for cooperation because the past meetings have covered all areas of cooperation. However, he noted, what is important is to intensify cooperation in the economic, trade, cultural, and educational fields, as well as the movement of manpower between the two countries.

Mr. Sidqi said: I hope that we will witness further achievements during this round. This is because we in Egypt and Syria believe that we are experiencing a stage in which cooperation is required at all levels. The scope of cooperation can be expanded to include other states in the Gulf and elsewhere. This is because the expected developments necessitate and make it incumbent on us—Egypt and Syria—to be engaged in greater and more extensive cooperation so that an intimate relationship is maintained between Egypt and Syria. Afterward, other states can join us. However, as vanguards in this regard and sharing a relevant previous experience, Egypt and Syria can take the required step at future meetings.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi made a statement to journalists in which he said: I welcome Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi in Damascus. I have nothing to add to what Mr. Sidqi has said. However, each time we meet in Damascus or Cairo to follow up the work of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee, something new must be achieved, the implementation of previous decisions

must be assessed, and new tasks must be given to experts and officials in both countries.

The prime minister added: We have achieved good results in the past, but we want more. We in both countries have the resources, desire, will, and determination to take steps toward a better future. There are many topics on the agenda of this round. We believe that this round will witness a qualitative development with respect to the expansion and promotion of relations in all fields.

In a separate development, the minutes of the meetings of the preparatory committee for the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee were signed at the Central Bank of Syria this morning. The minutes were signed for the Syrian Arab side by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and for the Egyptian side by Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of international cooperation. Experts from both sides attended the signing ceremony. The preparatory committee's recommendations will be submitted to the higher committee so that the required executive decisions are made. Such decisions will deal with the bilateral relations of cooperation in various political, economic, commercial, industrial, scientific, and technical areas.

Al-Zu'bi, Sidqi Make Opening Remarks

JN1712074093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] At 1930 today, official talks between the Syrian side headed by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the Egyptian side headed by Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi began at the Prime Ministry.

The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr. Kamil al-Baba, minister of electricity; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini, minister of finance; Dr. Muhammad Iyad al-Shatti, minister of health; Muhammad Amin Abu-al-Shamat, minister of tourism; Danhu Dawud, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Yahya Abu-'Asalih, minister of local administration; Dr. Nadir Nabulsi, minister of oil and mineral resources; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs; Dr. Salihah Sanqur, minister of higher education; Radwan Martini, minister of communications; Dr. Ahmad Nizam-al-Din, minister of industry; Dr. Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim, minister of transportation; Dr. 'Isa Darwish, Syrian ambassador in Cairo; Dr. Tawfiq Isma'il, assistant minister of planning; and Muhammad al-Sharif, governor of the Central Bank of Syria.

For Egypt, the meeting was attended by Dr. Kamal Ahmad al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli Sulayman, minister of transport, communications, and civil aviation; Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Razzaz, minister of finance; Ahmad Radwan Jum'ah Mansur, minister of state for cabinet and follow-up affairs; Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad Sharif, minister of local administration (government); Dr. Hamdi 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Bandi, minister of petroleum and mineral resources; Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation affairs; Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud Bayyumi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Makhzanji, minister of health; Dr. Fawzi 'Abd-al-Wahid, minister of industry and mineral resources; Dr. Venice Kamil Jawdah, minister of state for scientific research; Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, Egyptian ambassador in Damascus, and several advisers and technical experts.

At the outset of the session, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi welcomed 'Atif Sidqi and his delegation, and wished them a good stay in Syria, their second home, which is determined to make bilateral cooperation a springboard for stronger steps that could further enhance and promote the two countries' solidarity, the two peoples' unity, and the two powers' cohesion at a time when the Arabs have become vulnerable to the domination of powers which are standing in the way of their pan-Arab aspirations.

The prime minister said: Syria is eager to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. It has been making strenuous and constant efforts to maintain the cohesion of the Arab position. With regard to joint action in the peace process, it reflects strength. Moreover, it is the guarantor for the restoration of rights, and the restoration of all occupied Arab territories on the basis of UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

The prime minister said: As we meet today within the sixth round of the Joint Egyptian-Syrian Higher Committee meetings, we can only resolve to advance the march of cooperation, coordination, and integration between the two sisterly countries. Over the past few years, several steps have been realized in the economic areas that encompass the various industrial domains, the trade exchanges, and the cultural, technical, and scientific cooperation. These steps require all the Syrian and Egyptian officials to exert continuous efforts and to systematically follow up the joint projects.

The prime minister noted: Our responsibility in promoting our march is a great one which we will bear before our people and the future generations. Syria and Egypt are connected by nationalist and historical ties. They were one state in the past and the two peoples can have the same views on every issue of concern to Syria, Egypt, and the Arab nation. Egypt and Syria are the nucleus of the effective Arab force from the political, economic, and popular considerations. The economic and social integration by the two countries also serves the pan-Arab dimension which provides a wider Arab social and economic integration.

Concluding his statement, the prime minister said: I welcome you again in Damascus which is always proud of Syrian-Egyptian meetings, and we will become more proud of our achievements with every round of the joint committee meetings.

Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi then spoke. He thanked al-Zu'bi for the warm reception accorded him and his delegation and said: We are pleased to meet today with the Syrian brothers to entrench the cooperation march between our two countries. Ahead of us is a lot of work to do to advance the interests of the two peoples, to realize as much integration as possible, and to cooperate and coordinate in all fields.

Dr. Sidqi said: The Syrian track of the peace process is the key part in our efforts to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Egypt regards the Syrian rights in the peace process as its own rights and supports Syria's demands for full return of its territory. We are working together to realize this this aim which cannot be conceded.

Talks during the session dealt with bilateral relations and the agreements realized in previous round to reach integration between the two countries in implementation of instructions by President Hafiz al-Asad and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. It was agreed to continue the work of the committee on the subcommittees level.

At 1900 today, al-Zu'bi received Dr. Sidqi. The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for external affairs; Dr. 'Isa Darwish, the Syrian ambassador in Cairo; and Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with the fraternal bilateral relations.

Iraq, Turkey Invited To Discuss Euphrates Water

JN1612192893 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 14 Dec 93 pp 1, 29

[Exclusive report by 'Assaf 'Abbud]

[Text] Damascus—The Syrian Government has extended an invitation for a meeting among the foreign ministers of Syria, Iraq, and Turkey, in Damascus during the second half of December or in early January. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the issue of sharing the waters of the Euphrates River.

Ranking Syrian sources told AL-ITTIHAD that Damascus hopes the meeting will lead to positive results that could settle this issue among the three countries. These sources added that Baghdad agreed to attend the meeting and that Damascus is now waiting for the Turkish response to fix a date.

The same sources expressed Syrian optimism about the results of the anticipated meeting since it represents a "decisive" point after many developments on the level of relations between Syria and Turkey. The latest of these developments is the visit by the Turkish prime minister's adviser to Damascus and the visit by a Syrian security delegation, headed by Major General 'Adnan Badr Hasan, official in charge of security at the Syrian Ministry of Interior.

The Syrian sources said that Damascus is seeking to hold this meeting before the end of the year because the current climate is suitable for both the Syrian and Turkish sides and is conducive to reaching an agreement that is satisfactory to both parties. Moreover, Damascus does not underate Israel's interference in Turkey's economic and water policy. It wants to finalize this issue to avoid any negative Israeli interference; something that could lead to the obstruction of a future agreement.

On the technical level, Damascus is in great need of water for drinking and not just for the generation of electricity. Moreover, the cities of northern Syria, primarily Aleppo, depend mainly on the waters of the Euphrates. The latest agreement among the three countries stipulated diverting 500 cubic meters of water per minute to Syria from the Syrian-Turkish border while Syria diverts 52 percent of this water to Iraq. However, the fact that Turkey built the Ataturk Dams, which witholds about 30 billion cubic meters of water per minute, violated the agreement. This led to the eruption of the crisis which renews itself every now and then because there is no international agreement on the waters of the Euphrates River unlike other rivers. However, Syrian sources told AL-ITTIHAD that after extensive contacts with Syria, Turkey began to release amounts of water that greatly exceed the amount currently agreed upon. In the Syrian point of view, this is a sign of a Turkish and Syrian desire to reach a solution that would satisfy both parties and respect the two countries' interests from all aspects. However, there is no official agreement on this issue between the two countries.

Afghanistan

Government Soldiers Killed in Kabul

BK1612162093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1355 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Kabul, Dec 16 (AFP)—A barrage of 40 rockets and mortars slammed the Afghan capital here Thursday [16 December], killing at least two government soldiers, a spokesman for Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostam said.

The early morning attack targetted positions held by Dostam's Jumbish-e-Melli (National Islamic Movement) in southwest Kabul, commander Rais Abddula said.

He blamed Hezb-e-Eslami forces loyal to Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar's for the attack.

"Two of our soldiers were killed and three wounded," he said, adding that the Hezb rocketing started late Wednesday and continued Thursday.

Uzbek militia men loyal to Dostam were deployed as a buffer force between Hekmatyar's Hezb and Shura-e-Nazaar troops loyal to former defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. The buffer was part of a ceasefire agreed to six months ago.

Abdullah said that since their arrival in the southwestern part of Kabul, his troops were under frequent Hezb attacks. The troops are allied with the forces of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

However, Muhammed Wardak, a Hezb commander on the other side of the front denied the allegations, saying that the indisciplined Uzbek forces faced opposition from the local population.

A driver of a state-run bus confirmed that the Uzbek troops demanded cigarettes, fuel, sweets, cassettes, and even hashish. The drivers oblige, fearing that they would lose their jobs "if not their heads."

A passenger on the bus said the "biggest service" the Uzbeks could do for Kabul's people would be to leave the capital. "Mas'ud brought them here and only God knows how we would get rid of them," the passenger added.

Meanwhile, Dostam's Uzbek militia and Mas'ud's troops, holding positions near the Kabul airport, clashed around noon Thursday.

Light weapons, such as AK-47 assault riffles and RPG-7 anti-tank rockets, were used in the brief encounter.

"It is a weekly game of Uzbeks," a soldier said.

Provincial Troops Seize Weapons, Ammunition

LD1612220593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Personnel of Herat Province's National Security Department recently launched cleansing operations in the province's Ghoryan and Kohsan districts. During the operation a quantity of weapons and ammunition were seized.

BAKHTAR's military correspondent reported that one rocket launcher, one [word indistinct] machine gun, one Gronov machine gun, 22 Kalashnikovs, six assorted weapons, and an amount of ammunition were among the weapons seized.

Acting Prime Minister Meets UN Official on Aid

LD1612214993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Qazi Mohammad Amin Waqad this morning met with (Francis Attilo), political adviser of the Office of the Secretary General in Afghanistan and Pakistan, following earlier talks with Sitorios Mousouris. The prime minister's press office told BAKHTAR that (Francis Attilo) described the plan drafted by the premiers office for organizing the transportation of UN food convoys to Kabul as very valuable. He promised to report the matter to the UN secretary general and said he will make more efforts to organize UN aid to Afghanistan.

In response, explaining a series of useful efforts to ensure peace and total security in the country, esteemed Waqad said regular plans have been made for the UN convoys and the fair distribution of the goods among the residents of Kabul.

Transportation With Russia To Resume

LD1612221193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Transportation between the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the Russian Federation is to resume. This issue was discussed yesterday in a meeting between Acting Transport Minister Mohammad Khalil Zohad and the Russian consul general in the headquarters of Balkh Province. The meeting was also attended by Governor Mawlawi Mohammad Alam and other provincial leaders.

As a result, the consul promised his country's cooperation in this respect.

According to another report the acting minister of transport visited the KAMAZ 8 haulage firm yesterday.

India

Commerce Minister Comments on Dunkel Draft

BK1612164093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The Dunkel draft issue again stalled proceedings in parliament today despite the government's assertion that India will benefit more from the new GATT agreement than by pursuing any alternative course of action. Except tabling of some papers in the Lok Sabha and the question hour in the Rajya Sabha, no business could be done in both the houses which were adjourned for the day after several earlier breaks. The commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said:

[Begin Mukherjee recording] When the negotiation was going on, doubts were raised whether some of the provisions of the proposed text would affect the interests of Indian farmers. Only on three counts these doubts were raised. First, capacity of the Government of India to support the agricultural program would be affected by compelling to reduce the subsidies which are provided to the farmers. Secondly, our PDS [Public Distribution System] program through which we are providing essential commodities to the weaker sections of the community would be affected. Thirdly, the traditional right of the farmers to retain a part of their production for replanting purposes and exchanging across the fence could be affected. Now at the text before us we find that all these apprehensions are not well-founded. Neither the subsidies are to be reduced nor the farmers' traditional rights of retaining a part of their production for replanting purposes nor their right to exchange across the fence would be affected.

Similarly, our farmers' rights and researchers' rights are not going to be affected at all. In the national legislation, we will be able to provide the necessary protection to the farmers and to the researchers. On the other hand, as a result of these negotiations and the conclusions which have emerged, some of the developed countries would be compelled to reduce the subsidies which they are providing to their agricultural products. As a consequence to that, Indian agricultural products would be more competitive and in other words Indian farmers would have access not only to Indian market, but also to the world market. [end recording]

That was the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee. The minister explained that India had ultimately to go along with the rest of the world community on the inclusion of trade-related intellectual property rights though it was not initially in favor of the move. A 10-year period has been allowed to establish a products patent regime for drugs, food products, chemicals, and such items. He said if India had opted out of the new agreement, pressure for major trading partners for earlier introduction of product patent cannot be ruled out. On trade-related investement measures, he said the government retains its sovereign right to decide what type of foreign investment it wishes to allow into the country. The only requirement is that once a unit is allowed into the country, it should be treated on par with the indigenous units.

Commentary Notes Advantages of GATT Agreement

BK1712041693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Commentary by Bhushan Marwah of THE HINDUSTAN TIMES: "GATT Deal's Impact on India"]

[Text] The successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations spread over the past seven years is a mixed bag for India, but a careful analysis of its impact on India would show that the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages of becoming a contracting party to the historic GATT trade deal. With the reduction of tariffs, there would be larger access to the market and overall growth of trade. According to estimates made by the Commerce Ministry, the Uruguay Round would result in a significant expansion in world trade. As a result, India should be able to increase its exports by $1.5 to $2 billion annually in addition to the normal growth. Moreover, India would benefit from the multilateral system ensured by the GATT agreement which provides a detailed framework of rules to govern international trade. In many respects, these rules have a special dispensation for developing countries. It would also provide the benefits of most-favored-nation treatment to all the 117 members.

In case of the key agricultural sector, the agreement provides for reduction in export subsidies by developed countries, which will make Indian agricultural exports more competitive in world markets. At the same time, Indian farmers would not be affected as the country would be permitted to continue the current subsidies. In fact, it provides scope for further augmentation of agricultural subsidies if the government were to choose to raise the subsidies from the current levels.

In textiles, the commitment to phase out the quota regime after 10 years is a positive gain for textile exporting countries, including India. India successfully resisted pressure of the developed countries, such as the United States, for increasing the phase-out period for the quota system from 10 to 15 years, but India has not been allowed further access in the textile market.

In respect of trade-related intellectual property rights, India would be a loser, as it would have to change its patent laws. In the area of patents, flexibility has not been provided in respect of compulsory licensing, particularly for food and pharmaceuticals; but the government feels that the fears of exorbitant increase in the prices of patented drugs are not justified. This is because, under the agreement, India would be able to undertake compulsory licensing for noncommercial public use as well as to prevent situations of either inadequate availability or inordinate prices. All in all, as the commerce minister put it, India has more to benefit from the

expansion of world trade through the Uruguay Round agreement than from pursuing an alternative course of action.

Air Chief Meets Israeli, Russian Experts

BK1612153693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The chief of the air staff, Air Chief Marshal S.K. Kaul, today held extensive talks in Bangalore with the Russian and Israeli aviation experts to finalize the upgradation program for the country's mainstay fighter aircraft, the MiG-21. Later, talking to newsmen, the air chief said the country's prestigious first fighter Light Combat Aircraft—LCA—will be ready by 2005. He said India has embarked on the development of an antimissile system following reports that Pakistan was acquiring such missiles.

Islamabad Reports 'Fierce Clashes' in Kashmir

BK1612151093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Reports from occupied Kashmir speak of fierce clashes between mojahedin and Indian troops. In one of the clashes that took place in Naushahra sector of Jammu Province, 12 Indian troops were killed. Mojahedin suffered two casualties. In the operation, mojahedin also captured a large quantity of arms and ammunition. According to reports, four occupation Indian troops were killed in a landmine explosion in (Kanjigand). Indian Army continued their siege and search operation across the held valley during which five people were martyred. Over 50 people, mostly youths, were also rounded up by Indian troops during house searches in Srinagar, Baramula, Pampur, and Sopor. Situation in Kishtwar is reported to be tense after curfew was imposed a few days back as a result of severe public protest against the killing of six innocent people by Indian troops.

Iran

Habibi Reviews Talks in Syria

LD1612213593 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA—First Vice-President Hasan Habibi said upon his return from Damascus today that Syrian officials are committed to their position towards Palestine and Lebanon. He said "Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad lauded the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance towards Palestine and Lebanon."

Habibi referred to the major developments in Lebanon in the past year and said that the Zionist plots to annex part of the Lebanese territory have been thwarted. He said the viewpoints of leaders of Islamic and national groups and members of the Lebanese parliament was indicative of the solid ties between the popular forces and the parliament. Asked about the outcome of his talks with Syrian officials in the political and economic fields, the first vice president said that the two countries have common outlooks on the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) especially in the economic-politcal areas. He said NAM should become a large common market in the world.

Referring to his visit to the Syrian city of Halab, Habibi said the two Tehran and Damascus should conduct research studies in Islamic history through cooperation between their respective scientific centers. He said President al-Asad is to visit Tehran next spring. Ministers of industries and higher education of Syria have also been invited to visit Tehran, he added. Habibi heading a political-economic delegation paid a four-day visit to Syria.

Commentary Views Return of Palestinian Deportees

LD1612194593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1055 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] We heard in the news that the Palestinians who were deported to southern Lebanon a year ago, returned victoriously yesterday to their country.

This is the first time that Israel has been forced to repatriate exiled Palestinians to their homes and country. A year ago, the Security Council issued Resolution 799 condemning the deportation of this Palestinian group and instructed Israel to return them to their country, unconditionally and without any form of persecution. But Washington and Tel-Aviv, by skirting around this resolution agreed bilaterally that these Palestinian deportees should return to the occupied territories gradually, within a maximum period of one year.

The victorious return of the Palestinian deportees is important in several respects. A year ago, at a time when the Zionist regime identified and detained some of the most important jehad-waging figures of the Palestinian community, it imagined that this measure will inflict an irreparable blow against the main body of the intifadah, which relied on the Islamic forces of Hamas and Islamic Jihad and that this would definitely break the intifadah. But, what followed proved that this idea was wrong.

The uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine which is now on the eve of its sixth anniversary, contrary to what the Zionist regime imagined, continued and after a short time, it spread so much that it made living conditions and the traffic of the Zionists—especially in Gaza—very difficult. Right now, no Zionist, except the Zionist military, frequents those regions where the Palestinian inhabitants are in a majority. This situation shows that the Intifadah is the widespread movement of a people that stems from the Islamic idea of practicing ones duties without the need to have results [sentence as heard]. And that the detention of even high-ranking persons and

individuals is not effective in halting the continuation of the life of this immaculate lineage which becomes stronger by the day.

The Zionist regime's action yesterday, to imprison all the Palestinian deportees, shows the weakness and abject nature of the leaders in Tel-Aviv, more than ever. Because the Zionists feared that the homecoming ceremonies might add more strength to the intifadah and lead to public riots, they were obliged to violate, once again, international regulations.

In Resolution 799, the UN Security Council instructed Israel to release the Palestinian deportees and to guarantee their lives. But this usurper regime, by detaining all the returned deportees, exposed more than ever, America's protective policies towards it and the double-standards applied by the Security Council towards offenders. It also raised the need for international organizations to be freed from the claws of big powers and their hegemonistic objectives.

Editorial Views Iraq's Call for Improved Ties

NC1712095993 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 8 Dec 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Normalizing Ties With Baghdad"]

[Text] In an interview with the weekly KEYHAN HAVA'I last week, Baghdad's highest ranking diplomat to Tehran, Charge d'affaires Al- Dulaymi, expressed his country's desire to sign a permanent peace accord with Iran, normalize relations and put this bitter chapter in the history of ties between the two countries behind.

He said the Iranian nation should forget the past and take steps towards the resolution of the outstanding problems, adding "I am opposed to the opinion that friendly ties between Tehran and Baghdad cannot be established."

It is not the first time that an Iraqi official has called for improvement of ties between the two countries. In an interview with the Italian news agency in Baghdad last month, Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi deputy prime minister, expressed similar sentiments. He said Tehran initiate steps towards normalization of ties, adding close relations and cooperation between Tehran and Baghdad are in the interests of both countries.

The opinion expressed by both the Iraqi diplomat to Tehran and Mr. Tariq 'Aziz are most probably not coincidental and should reflect the feeling of officials higher up in the Iraqi power echelon. In view of Baghdad's present isolation, the general hostile political conditions against it, on the one hand, and Washington's mudslinging against Iran and its concerted efforts to subject Iran to economic hardship by various means, on the other, there are people who believe that an alliance between Tehran and Baghdad can tip the region's political and economic equilibrium in favor of the two countries.

The politics of the Persian Gulf region has been based on the existence of hostility and friction between Iran and Iraq. And if these two countries manage to forge a practical working relationship, helping one another in ways they can, many equations would be disturbed. But normalization of ties between the two countries cannot be materialized unless certain conditions are first fulfilled. Iran is, however, of the opinion that it is Baghdad that has kept the trend toward normalization obstructed.

Baghdad's call for improved ties should be accompanied by a demonstration of goodwill. There have been as yet no substantive measures by it to support its call. An effort by Baghdad to resolve the by-now chronic POW issue can be a proof of that goodwill. According to the chairman of the Iranian POW committee, Iraq is holding some 8,000 war prisoners, some of whom have been in Iraq as early as 1975 as a result of a brief military encounter then between the two countries.

The Iranian government claim on the number of Iranian POWs still in incarceration in Iraq is not for the purpose of generating negative publicity against Iraq. It is sincere and Baghdad knows it. Iran's claim is based on the revelation made by the released Iranian POWs, the voice of Iranian prisoners that used to be aired from Baghdad Radio, pictures released by Baghdad to various Arab and Western media, information given out by the Red Cross and so on.

Baghdad seems to have become the victim of its own indulgence to an orgy of lawlessness during and after the war, both in relations to Iran and its Arab neighbors. It seems to have something in mind in relation to the Iranian POWs, it is unable to verbalize. Can it be that Baghdad has liquidated the mass of the remaining Iranian POWs? If so what is going to happen to the some 20,000 or so Iraqi POWs (according to the Red Cross) in Iran?

Even when in hostility one has to observe a limit. That holds true with individuals as it does with countries. The problem with Baghdad, from which it is suffering now and will most probably suffer for years to come, is that when in anger it did not recognize the magnitude and repercussions of what it was doing, and, consequently, destroyed all the bridges behind. And thus, it has become a captive of its own deeds.

Baghdad wants to solve the POW issue because the stakes for it are just as high, but it has got no cards in hands to play. The solution to the POW issue is, however, not silence, neither is it indifference or intimidation. It is true Baghdad made the sincere move on the POW issue. It should try to manage the stalemate and not let it go from bad to worse. And with the POW issue resolved the way will be open for normalization of ties.

Turkish Diplomat: MKO, Turkish Kurds Collaborate

LD1612155393 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA—Turkish opposition Kurds and the terrorist Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) share a common objective and collaborate with each other, according to a Turkish diplomat based in an Arab country.

Speaking in conditions of anonymity, the diplomat said the close ties between Iran and Turkey have prompted the reaction of different parties including the Saddam regime, Turkish rebel Kurds and the MKO terrorists.

He added that based on secret agreements, those parties annoyed with good relations between the two countries have concentrated their efforts on marring Tehran-Ankara relations.

According to him, the assassination of the Turkish diplomat Caglar Yucel in Baghdad last Saturday was part of the secret agreements while the MKO elements benefited from the information given to them by the Turkish opposition Kurds.

Yucel was assassinated shortly after the Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller decided to restrict the activities of the MKO members in Ankara.

According to official sources, Iran and Turkey are working to remove the clouds which hanged over the relations between the two neighboring countries and initiate sound cooperation in various fields within the framework of the good neighbourly and friendly relations.

German Official Meets Yazdi, Besharati

LD1612172693 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1430 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] The German Deputy Minister of Justice [Rainer Funke] met with Judiciary chief Mr. Yazdi today.

At the meeting the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest. According to a CNB [central news bureau] report, the German official, at the meeting, pointed to the existence of deep friendly ties between Iran and Germany, thanking Iran for having provided facilities to expand bilateral ties in the economic and parliamentary fields.

Ayatollah Yazdi expressed satisfaction over the trend of bilateral ties and elaborated on the roles played by the three branches ruling the governing system and noted that Iran's judicial branch acts independently just like the other two branches and naturally all three of them act under the leader's guidelines.

Elsewhere, pointing to Serbian crimes against the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the indifference of the international circles, Mr. Yazdi expressed hope that the problem of Bosnia be settled once an international court is established.

Meanwhile, according to IRNA, the visiting German deputy minister of justice, in a meeting with Iran's interior minister, Mr. Besharati-Jahromi yesterday, called for amending the 1927 protocol.

The German deputy minister of justice also called for promotion of political, economic, cultural, and industrial relations between the two countries.

Mr. Besharati-Jahromi said both Iran and Germany enjoy full understanding in all fields and expressed confidence that Iranian and German governments would never face any problem if they continue to put emphasis on their common views.

Meantime, Mr. Besharati-Jahromi voiced Iran's readiness to put its experience on anti-drug campaign at the disposal of Germany.

Commentary Views Aspin's Resignation

LD1612231793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] According to dispatches, U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin has tendered his resignation and will officially leave the Pentagon with effect from next January the 20th.

Release of this news, prior to causing any reaction within America, has brought immediate reactions at the international level. Since the time of failure of U.S. militarist policy in Somalia, Haiti, and Bosnia-Herzegovina it was expected that the Clinton administration would make vast-ranging changes in its military leadership cadre. But apparently Mr. Aspin preferred to become the first major victim of the failure of U.S. policy so as to check the negative impacts of such a defeat.

In the opinion of analysts of U.S. political affairs, presently Mr. Clinton is faced with the reality that he has practically failed to prove U.S. supremacy on the international scene. This same factor has led to emergence of some opposition inside the United States. America, which in the wake of disintegration of the former Soviet Union, claimed to be the world's sole leader, is now unable to even over-ride its internal problems. Clinton, who lacks adequate experience to lead his country, now has no alternative but to say farewell to and [word indistinct] the defense secretary who could not successfully lead to victory the U.S. military operations in Somalia.

Informed sources believe that Aspin's resignation mostly resembles dismissal since he in fact was forced to make his exit. Differences between him and Clinton's national security adviser over U.S. military operations in Haiti and Bosnia-Herzegovina are rated as the most important

factors behind his departure. Killing of 12 U.S. troops in Somalia followed by a change in America's military strategy in that country speak of a big defeat for America and consequently for Mr. Aspin. Pressure from the U.S. public opinion which considers American intervention in Somalia as unreasonable had created a very difficult situation for the outgoing defense secretary.

Since the decision making process concerning U.S. military operations is not restricted to merely the defense secretary, and the U.S. National Security Council adopts decision in this regard, it does not appear the next U.S. defense secretary may bring about any extraordinary shift in such a domination-seeking military strategy of America.

At any rate it is effective for the enforcement of Washington's hegemonistic designs as to what individual in executive terms has the Pentagon. [sentence as heard]

In any case, since the resignation of Caspar Weinberger, the defense secretary of ex-U.S. President Ronald Reagan, it is for the first time that America on the account of the defeat of its policies has been compelled to dismiss its defense secretary so as to minimize the impacts of such defeats domestically.

Repercussions of Clinton's 'Immaturity' Noted

NC1712091793 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 8 Dec 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Repercussions of a President's Immaturity"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Clinton knows nothing about international politics and it is the Zionist influence in the U.S. Democrat Party that forces him to play the role of a puppet for international Zionism. Not only has he continued the militaristic policy of Bush, on the path of which he incurred a blatant defeat for his party and for the country in Somalia, but he has also earned massive dishonor by his thoughtless meeting with the apostate Salman Rushdie.

The meeting with the author—who has tarnished the nobility of the pen by his defamatory action and toyed with the sentiments of 1.2 billion Muslims—was one of Clinton's major blunders. This action was carried out by the Zionist's cunning planning and had important repercussions. Even Clinton realized this, judging from his attempts to make amends by expressing respect for Islam and trying to justify the meeting.

Some of the repercussions stem from the remarks of influential personalities in the Islamic world condemning the meeting between Clinton and Rushdie and the declaration of stances by various religious organizations and institutions in the Islamic world endorsing the execution order against Rushdie. The abhorrence expressed over the meeting between Clinton and Rushdie and the meeting's blatant insult to Islam and the Muslims seethe like a tidal wave in the Islamic world and indicate that the U.S. President is the most hated individual in the eyes of the Muslims. [passage omitted]

Is it not true that the American people are suffering because of the lack of a mature president? The Muslims consider the accounts of the unbaked American echelons to be in a separate ledger from that of the American people. They firmly believe that the U.S. people are not happy with their government even though there is litt they can do. The question remains: Do not Washington's echelons want to act in a more mature and wise manner to safeguard their national prestige?

Relations With South Africa Urged

NC1712074193 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 13 Dec 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Resumption of Ties With South Africa"]

[Text] The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran dictated that we should not have relations with governments that are intrinsically oppressive. Two countries were singled out. The usurper Zionist regime in Palestine and the apartheid regime of South Africa.

The main reason for sanctioning South Africa was its official policy of apartheid (separation of races) which excluded the black majority (about 75 per cent) of the country from participating in the government.

When in 1988, Frederik W. de Klerk of the ruling National party became president; he promised to gradually end the country's racial policy of apartheid which had been officially announced in 1948. Since then, many black detainees have been released from prison, including Nelson Mandela, the leader of African National Congress. Mandela has worked with President de Klerk to work out a new platform for South Africa.

South Africa is a multi-racial society composed of four main groups: blacks, whites, coloreds, and Asians. This new platform will enable all races to participate in government and freely determine their own affairs.

On Tuesday, a transitional executive council took over for the period up to South Africa's first all-race elections. This effort will be appreciated by the Nobel peace prize being awarded jointly to Mandela and President de Klerk.

The world is witnessing definite signs of improvement in South Africa, which will transform the nature of the government there. In view of the present changes, the Foreign Ministry ought to be considering the resumption of relations with South Africa. The Islamic Republic has supported the rights of the indigenous people of South Africa and has kept close relations with Nelson Mandela. If, at this crucial stage, he asks for further support we need to follow suit and extend our hands forward.

The reason for sanctioning South Africa seems to be disappearing. In addition, we need to establish talks in order to influence and ensure the rights of the Muslims

there. Moreover, South Africa is the most highly industrialized economy in Africa. Renewed economic ties could further both countries' progress.

IRNA Chief Outlines Agency's Plans

LD1612230893 Tehran IRNA in English 1941 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA—Managing director of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) Fereydun Verdinejad said at a 'Meet-the-People' interview on Tehran Radio Thursday [16 December] that IRNA aims to specialize news reports as well as make an effort for mass producing news.

Verdinejad offered a report on the improvement in the quality and amount of news produced by IRNA during the past year, and answered people's questions of the radio's audience as posed to him by telephone.

He said IRNA had adopted very positive efforts for developing relations with other news agencies of the world and especially those in Asia.

Verdinejad said that during the past year IRNA made genuine efforts to establish business relations and news service agreements with the newly independent republics in central Asia and Caucasia.

Responding to a question on IRNA's emphasis on speed he said that speed will be valuable only if and when it does not sacrifice accuracy and credibility. He said IRNA evaluates fast converage as a constituent element of accuracy and truth in news reporting.

IRNA deputy managing director for news services, Mohammad Hassan Ja'fari, who answered some of the telephone questions by the radio's audience said that IRNA aims to venture into the universal news reporting arena and offer independent news services nationally and internationally.

He said the agency is currently passing through a transition period during which it makes it indispensible for the Iranian people to read and listen to reports by other news agencies and foreign broadcasts.

IRNA chief Verdinejad said that today the West exploits the public information system as a means of pressing in its own private purposes within the framework of its political and cultural goals in other countries. He said to fight public information imperialism the Islamic Republic News Agency aims to develop its offices, offer training to new personnel, and rely more on research in the field.

He said the major news agencies of the world in fact seek to block the dissemination of certain news reports in the world.

He added that the major news agencies of the world concentrate a lot more on such topics as poverty, violence, insecurity and war in the third world while they try to keep mute on other news that relate to the development, progress and scientific achievements in the Third World.

Pakistan

Bhutto Views Relations With India, Iran

NC1712074893 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 Dec 93 pp 1, 15

["Exclusive" interview with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by an unidentified TEHRAN TIMES correspondent in Islamabad; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Q. The massive repression of the Kashmiris continues unabated. A solution appears necessary to relieve their agony. What are the realistic prospects for a solution in Indo-Pakistan talks that could be acceptable to the Kashmiri people? Are there prospects of early Indo-Pakistan talks on this subject? Can the Islamic Republic of Iran play a role?

A. Pakistan views with grave concern the situation in Indian-held Kashmir, in particular the gross violation of human rights and the various repressive measures taken by the Indian forces to quell the struggle of Jammu and Kashmir for their right of self-determination. More than 15,000 people have already been killed by the Indian security forces and Kashmir's long night of terror continues. While the siege of Hazratbal shrine has been partially lifted, the situation in the valley remains very tense. We are going to hold talks with India on the issue since for the first time the Indians have agreed to discuss Kashmir as a separate agenda item. Talks at the Foreign Secretary level will be held in Islamabad early next year.

We appreciate Iran's support on the Kashmir question. We had welcomed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's offer of mediation to settle the Kashmir issue and would be grateful for any role that Iran could play in this regard.

Q. India has not accepted any of your proposals for ensuring non-proliferation in South Asia. You remain at odds with the United States on this issue. What in your view are the prospects for a satisfactory resolution?

A. Pakistan's position with regard to the nuclear issue is clear and unambiguous. Our nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes. Pakistan has offered over half a dozen proposals for nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia which include our willingness to sign the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] if India does the same. India has unfortunately not responded to any of these proposals.

As regards our relations with Washington we believe that the Pressler Amendment is not just a discriminatory piece of legislation since it singles out Pakistan but it has also been misapplied to our country. But now even the Americans themselves have come to see the unjust nature of this legislation which has failed to achieve its

declared objectives. We hope that this recognition translates into actions that undo both Pressler and its effects on Pakistan.

Q. Iran-Pakistan bilateral political relations are excellent. What are your government's plans for consolidating the political relationship and giving it greater economic content?

A. We attach great importance to our relations with Iran. Iran occupies a special place for Pakistan because of its location and the bonds of faith, history and culture that link the two countries. Good relations with Iran are an imperative. It will be the objective of my government to further strengthen these ties.

There is great potential between our countries for cooperation in the economic field. We would like to explore the possibility of joint industrial ventures, cooperation in the field of communications and strengthening of trade links between the two countries. We would also like to accelerate the pace of high level contacts between the two countries so as to enable us to have a regular exchange of views at the highest level to restore warmth and vitality in our relations.

Q. Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) has been recently enlarged. Ambitious plans for infrastructural development have been approved by ECO Summit meeting. What are the prospects for realizing these plans and for promoting joint economic development?

A. We attach great importance to the ECO as a means of promoting cooperation between the three original members, the six Central Asian Republics and Afghanistan. Various proposals for development have been approved by the ECO meeting. The Quetta Plan of Action and the Istanbul Summit have spelt out the framework and ways of achieving those objectives. We believe that within that framework, our efforts have been proceeding in a satisfactory manner. The context of ECO provides yet another forum for closer consultation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to harmonize their views on regional cooperation.

Q. The region is beset with conflicts: Azerbaijan-Armenia, Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Foreign induced tensions also exist in the Persian Gulf. What can Pakistan or Pakistan-Iran together do to promote peace and stability in the region?

A. We had expressed our concern over the conflict in Azerbaijan-Armenia and Tajikistan and Afghanistan. As Chairman of the ECO Council of Ministers, Pakistan coordinated with Iran to evolve a common strategy to bring an end to Armenian aggression. We are ready to show solidarity with the people of Azerbaijan, many of whom have been forced to seek shelter in Iran. Pakistan has also offered assistance to the Azeri refugees in Iran. Further, Pakistan would like peace and stability to return to Afghanistan. We believe that the clashes between Tajikistan and Afghanistan should cease and the border should be peaceful.

We are open to any suggestion regarding joint efforts with Iran to promote a settlement of Tajik-Afghanistan differences.

Minister Discusses Foreign Policy Objectives

BK1512145393 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 15 Dec 93

[Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has said that Pakistan while adhering to the principles of modernization and friendship with all as basis of its foreign policy will never compromise on its vital interests in dealing with various issues. The foreign minister was addressing the officers of the Foreign Office in Islamabad today. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said Pakistan being a Muslim country seeks inspiration from Islam and considers the Islamic principles as its great assets.

The foreign minister said Pakistan is entering into a crucial phase in the foreign affairs because of events taking place in Kashmir, new changes in the international climate, and introduction of the new world order. In view of these developments, he emphasized, the Pakistani diplomats should prepare themselves to face new challenges and pursue the country's foreign policy in a manner that the country should not feel itself isolated in the comity of nations.

The foreign minister said the main thrust of the country's foreign policy envisages solution of the Kashmir issue, dispelling misunderstanding about the country's peaceful nuclear program, peace in Afghanistan, and the establishment of good relations with all countries, especially Central Asian and SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] nations.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali emphasized that the Kashmir issue would continue to get top priority and diplomatic efforts would be intensified to expose the atrocities being committed by India in occupied Kashmir. The foreign minister appreciated the role of the Foreign Office in the conduct of the country's foreign policy and said that Pakistani diplomats are second to none and they are the best anywhere in the world.

Editorial: GATT 'Short-Changed' Third World

BK1712093093 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 17 Dec 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Flawed GATT Deal"]

[Text] In a statement yesterday Director General GATT Peter Sutherland informed a waiting world that 117 countries have reached agreement on a world trade which he said would mean more trade, more investment, more jobs and larger income. Though the formal ratification and fine details will take another year or two, the

framework and general guidelines have been worked out. For a long time the world economy has been moving towards global specialisation but national interests and special lobbies have been placing hurdles in the way of free trade. Though protectionism was profitable to a group of industries, consumers all over the world have suffered a great deal due to restrictive trade practices of many major powers of the world. In general, if the GATT has a smooth implementation, tariffs on trade will come down by 40 percent in its first phase. The extent of burden on consumers could be judged from the price of rice in Japan's domestic market which has varied between four to six times higher than the world prices in the past decade. In the short term there are bound to be closures and loss of jobs in some areas, but eventually all the world will benefit as the global trade will increase by 200 billion dollar as a result of GATT deal.

Although we welcome the Agreement in principle, we regret to say that the Third World Countries have been short-changed. Once again they have become victims of double standards and selective application of the principle of free trade. The narrow, selfish approach of the industrialised nations as well as their inability to look beyond the immediate present has caused serious flaws in the Agreement which does not bode well for the future of free trade. While industrial nations want the developing countries to open up their markets to the capital goods in which they have comparative advantage, they have refused to allow free access to the manufactured goods of the Third World countries in order to give protection to indigenous production. We are specially referring here to textile quotas which will continue to operate and will not be subjected to provisions of GATT. That makes nonsense of the idea of free trade and is a blatant act of injustice towards the developing nations who are already suffering from balance of payment problem due to shrinking exports. Half of the total exports of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, and large share of Indian and Pakistani exports consist of textile goods. While our markets will be flooded with Western durables, our manufactured goods will not be sold there due to Western barriers.

We do not believe that industrial nations of the world dare not aware of the disadvantages the deal has for less developed economies. Their bully boy tactics are based on the cynical calculation that these countries are in extremely week position and cannot stand up to western pressure or risk isolation. Well, if that is not a form of colonialism, we do not know how to describe it. It is salutary to remind the myopic world powers that the fate of all nations of the world is inextricably linked. Further impoverishment of the Third World will limit its ability to buy goods from the technologically advanced countries. Their insolvency and rising debts will undermine the financial institutions of the West, and in the end whatever gains the world has made through GATT, will be cancelled by the depressed economies of the Third World countries.

Media View Results of U.S. Senators' Visit

Retention of 'Nuclear Option' Urged

BK1612133993 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 16 Dec 93 p 10

[Editorial: "The Black Day of 16 December—the Country's Defense Needs"]

[Text] After concluding his visit to India, Senator Pressler—author of the anti-Pakistani Pressler Amendment—arrived in Pakistan and held meetings with government leaders. Press reports say the Pakistani Government has made it clear that the amendment to the U.S. Constitution [as published] is discriminatory, biased, and prejudicial against Pakistan.

The other day, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto reaffirmed Pakistan's national policy that the nuclear program—which guarantees the security of the country and the nation—will not be rolled back. Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani, during talks with Senator Pressler and members of his delegation, said that the United States has strained Pakistan's defense by enacting the Pressler Amendment, thereby changing the regional balance of power. Recently, the United States also took back the frigate it had leased to Pakistan.

India, however, has been given total freedom to amass arms. It has established superiority over us in conventional weapons. India has deployed one-sixth of its armed forces on the Kashmir border. India's intentions are dangerous; it might embark on an aggression against Pakistan. Pakistan has already encountered Indian aggression three times. No country in the region is happy with India. India has made use of every means to ensure its hegemony in the Indian subcontinent. In pursuit of this objective, it has shown scant regard for bilateral relations or international norms. India arrogantly conducted a nuclear explosion. Pakistan was consequently forced to launch a nuclear program to defend its independence, sovereignty, and security.

The 1948, 1965, and 1971 wars proved that it is impossible for Pakistan to match India's colossal armed forces by relying on conventional weapons and troops alone. India used its military might to dismember Pakistan in 1971. It also acquired a nuclear capability to subjugate the remainder of Pakistan. Pakistan was left with no other option but to acquire a nuclear deterrent.

It is an unfortunate fact that Pakistan has been subjected to vengeance and prejudice by the United States and other members of the nuclear club for being an Islamic state. When Pakistan refused to accept this pressure, the Pressler and Symington Amendments were introduced for the sole purpose of "twisting the arm" of Pakistan. The United States, under its new world order philosophy, is now urging Pakistan to roll back its nuclear program. In view of realities in the region, however, Pakistan cannot do this.

India launched a naked military aggression in 1971 to "cut Pakistan down to size," although conspiracies by our own people played a role in the fall of Dhaka. Now, if Pakistan wants to protect itself from Indian aggression, it will have to retain the nuclear option. It is imperative that the present government, political leadership, and people of Pakistan eliminate chaos, confrontation, and anarchy; create political stability in the country; steer the nation out of racial, ethnic, regional, and provincial prejudices; and infuse the nation with a sense of unity. Pakistan's creation was the result of unity and consensus among the subcontinent's Muslims, while the tragedy of 16 December was the result of the nation being divided into various nationalities, ethnic groups, and communities instead of remaining united as one nation. Unfortunately, today Pakistan has again been divided into various groups, with confrontation further widening this division. We believe in the same God, the same prophet, and the same holy book; we should remain united as one nation and face the enemies of our country and community as one, thereby ensuring our independence, sovereignty, and security. The calamity of 16 December is a shameful chapter in the history of our community. Such a black day should never happen again, God forbid. To achieve this goal, we will have to take every possible step to defend our motherland. We should adhere to our program and ensure our security by rejecting any pressure from the Hindus and Jews.

Editorial Discusses Visit

BK1612153593 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 16 Dec 93 p 3

[Editorial: "The Ball Is Now in America's Court"]

[Text] On Tuesday, the team of American senators held detailed discussions with Pakistan's defense minister, foreign minister, president, and prime minister on bilateral relations as well as all matters of mutual interest. Nothing can be said about the American lawmakers' impressions of these talks or whether there has been any positive change in their thinking. But it is a matter of great satisfaction that the Pakistani authorities held talks with them in an open and candid way and explained their stand on the current situation precisely.

The Pakistani leaders told the American senators categorically that the U.S. stand on Pakistan's nuclear program and its economic and military assistance to Pakistan is completely against all norms of justice and is damaging Pakistan's vital interests. After his meeting with the American senators, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali told reporters that Pakistan made it clear to its guests that the restrictions imposed under the Pressler Amendment have created a severe imbalance of power in South Asia. The Pakistani Government is facing difficulty in strengthening its defenses to the desired level. The country cannot allow this situation to continue for long. The foreign minister stated quite appropriately that if the United States gives no indication that it will fulfill Pakistan's defense requirements by next April, Pakistan will be forced to acquire the necessary defense and aviation equipment from other sources. Pakistan has paid $1 billion to the United States. Of this, $658 million was for F-16 aircraft. But so far, it has not received anything in return for these payments. The foreign minister quite aptly asked the American lawmakers how long Pakistan should wait for a change in the American attitude. He also reminded the American senators that the present government is an elected one, and the people have great expectations of it. If the U.S. Government does not help Benazir Bhutto's government overcome its difficulties, it may suffer severe setbacks, which in turn may affect the democratic process. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the U.S. Government to understand the situation properly and extend all legitimate cooperation to Pakistan.

The foreign minister said a slight positive change could be observed in the American senators' attitude, and that they are trying to keep an open mind and understand Pakistan's position. We hope that the foreign minister's impression holds true and that the American senators, upon their return, make positive proposals to their government. But we feel that Pakistani-U.S. relations have reached the stage that if the prospects are not bright for their improvement, Pakistan will have to look elsewhere to meet its defense requirements. The foreign minister also made it quite clear that Pakistan only expressed its willingness to hold talks with India on the Kashmir dispute so that its friends and the international community will see that it is not demonstrating any unwarranted obduracy or obstinacy, and is willing to hold talks with an open mind. The foreign minister rightly represented the views of the Pakistani people by saying that we do not have very great expectations for the proposed talks in January. But we have expressed our willingness to hold talks to show our sincerity of purpose.

If the United States is really interested in establishing peace in South Asia, it should adopt a just and practical attitude; not only on the Kashmir issue, but also on issues like Pakistan's nuclear program and its defense needs. We hope that the American Senate delegation will come to understand the situation and be able to help its government think along the right lines and make decisions. The fact is that as far as any improvement in Pakistani-U.S. ties is concerned, the ball is now in America's court. The responsibility for taking the right steps in this direction also rests with it.

Editorial Views News Conference

BK1712094993 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 17 Dec 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Let the Approach Be Evenhanded"]

[Text] At the end of their three-day visit to Pakistan, US Senators Thad Cochran, Hank Brown and Larry Pressler addressed a Press conference at the American Centre in Islamabad. Terming their visit as fruitful, they said the discussions with Pakistani officials had provided them a

greater understanding and a better perception of the importance of Pak-US ties and of nurturing these relations in future. The Senators also tried to explain that all endeavours of the United States, including the Pressler Amendment, were basically mounted to stop the spread of nuclear weapons as more countries joining the present five nations nuclear club could endanger world peace.

Throughout the Press conference, the US Senators harped on the same tune although, at times, they did not agree with each other's view. Senator Larry Pressler clearly took pride in his amendment and did not deny singling out Pakistan for its application. He said there were reports in the media during mid-80s that an Islamic Bomb was being prepared and that the technology might pass from one country to another. However, Senator brown dismissed this idea and said there is no such thing as an Islamic Bomb and the United States had not focused only on Pakistan but on every country wherever the threat of a nuclear device existed. Both he and Senator Cochran made it clear that they did not share Pressler's views on singling out Pakistan under his amendment. Senator Cochran claimed that the Amendment was not against any particular country as "Pakistan is on top of the countries we like." However, the most significant statement made at the Press conference was by Senator Larry Pressler when he said that both Pakistan and India are ready for the inspection of their nuclear facilities. "The Pakistan Prime Minister told me exactly what the Indian Prime Minister had said in this context," he said. This is the first indication given at such a high diplomatic level by India that it may open its facilities for international inspection. If that is so, why does India refuse to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) when Pakistan has several times stated that it is prepared to sign it simultaneously with it? It is strange Senator Larry Pressler did not put this question to the Indian Prime Minister. Although Senator Cochran accepted that "very persuasive evidence has been given to us to show that the implementation of the Pressler. Amendment was against the interests of Pakistan and we will explore the options to do an evenhanded application of the law," Senator Pressler still refuses to support the move to bring changes in his amendment. It is hoped the Clinton administration would not let him have his way and make special efforts to have the new foreign assistance bill adopted by the Congress.

Spokesman Notes 'Growing' Indian Violations

BK1612150093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] Pakistan has expressed serious concern over the growing violation of the Line of Control by Indian forces over the past several weeks. Briefing newsmen in Islamabad today, a Foreign Office spokesman called upon the international community to urge India to stop these violations and its campaign of repression in occupied Kashmir. The spokesman said since January 1990, Indian firing from across the Line of Control has resulted in over 600 fatal casualties. The spokesman reiterated that the Indian firing from across the Line of Control is not only a violation of the cease-fire agreement under the UN resolutions, but also the violation of the Simla agreement. He said Pakistan has been warning the international community of the dangers inherent in the repression being committed by Indian occupation forces in occupied Kashmir.

When asked to comment on a press report quoting U.S. Senator Larry Pressler as saying that India and Pakistan have agreed to open their nuclear installations to international inspection, he said if the U.S. senator has succeeded in persuading India to open its nuclear installations then it is a major breakthrough.

Germany To Provide Financial Assistance

BK1712070293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Dec 93

[Text] Germany will provide 2.9 million German marks for various projects under its financial assistance program. An agreement to this effect was signed after the conclusion of the bilateral annual negotiations on economic matters in Bonn. The projects will help augment Islamabad's efforts to ensure economic development, especially the development of the social sector under the Social Action Program. The amount will include a loan on concessional terms and a grant. Germany will also provide an additional 25 million German marks for small projects under the technical assistance program.

Defense Assistance Accord Signed With Jordan

BK1612153093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Dec 93

[Text] An agreement was signed at the third meeting of Pak-Jordanian Defense Collaboration Committee held at Joint Staff headquarters in Rawalpindi this morning. Assistant Chief of Staff [for] Planning and Organization [of] Jordanian Army Lieutenant General (Musa al-Adwan), and Director General [of] Joint Staff Lieutenant General Chaudhary Sardar Ali signed the agreement on behalf of the Governments of Jordan and Pakistan. Under the agreement, Pakistan will provide mutual assistance to Jordan in many defense fields.

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